

## Preparing For Parent/Child Dedication

As you consider dedicating your child, there are a few significant things to recognize:

1. Children are a gift from God.
  - Genesis 28:3 *"God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful..."*
  - Genesis 33:5 *"...The children who God has graciously given your servant."*
  - Psalm 127:3 *"Children are a heritage from the Lord."*
2. Jesus Christ valued children very highly.
  - Matthew 18:1-4 *"...whoever humbles himself like this child, is the greatest in the kingdom of God."*
  - Matthew 19:13-15 *"...let the children come unto me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."*  
(CF. Mark 10:13-16, 36-37; Luke 18:15-17)
3. Godly parents dedicate their children to the Lord.
  - 1 Samuel 1: 11, 28 *"...if you will..give your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life...So now I give him to the Lord."*
  - Luke 2:22-35 Presentation of baby Jesus in the temple.
  - Joshua 24:15-16 *"...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*
4. Parental training and discipline is commanded for the child's godly development.
  - Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *"...and you shall teach them (God's words) diligently to your children and shall talk of them..."* (Also Deut. 7:9-11, 11:18-23)
  - Ephesians 6:1-4 *"...Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* (Also Colossians 3:21)
5. The disciplined spiritual life of parents will have a powerful influence in the lives of their children.
  - Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."*
  - Exodus 20:5-6 *"You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments."*
  - Psalm 103:17-18 *"But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments."*
6. Dedicating a child to the Lord does not make the child a Christian. The Christian father and mother must conscientiously endeavor to be the spiritual leader in the home by example and influence. Parents together must commit themselves to seize opportunities of sharing their faith within the context of daily living. The strength and wisdom for this task comes from a daily personal walk with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

The dedication service fulfills the dual role of:

- 1) children being dedicated to the Lord so they might love, follow and serve Him and of
- 2) parents dedicating themselves to the sacred task of Christian training and nurture.

As part of the dedication service, the following aspects will be briefly explained:

#### Five aspects of Child Dedication

##### 1. Giving thanks to God

We recognize God as the author and giver of life. Your child is a wonderful gift!

##### 2. Dedicating yourself to God

Dedication is as much about parents dedicating themselves to live godly lives as it is about giving their child back to God

##### 3. Dedicating your child

It is the reminder that your child is not yours but God's. He has given you the responsibility of caring for and raising one of his children. Ultimately it is His will for your child that needs to be discerned and supported.

##### 4. Asking for God's help

It is tough to raise a child in today's society and culture. We need all the help we can get. By dedicating your child, you are publicly declaring your need of the Spirit of God's help in this life long process.

##### 5. Asking for the church's help

"It takes a village to raise a child" – it takes a community to influence a child for good and for God.

Ultimately every parent is responsible before God for their child's spiritual input and development, but the church and the church community is there to partner with parents in the process.

#### **Parent/Family Member/or Pastor: A Chosen Verse of Scripture for their child**

#### **Parental Questions and Response:**

Do you recognize that \_\_\_\_\_ has been entrusted to you by God himself?

Do you commit yourself, God helping you, to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to know the Lord Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior?

Do you promise, God helping you, to help \_\_\_\_\_ find God's will for his life as God gives you discernment and insight?

#### **Congregational Response:**

Invite church to stand

Do you as members of the church, family and friends, commit yourselves to the spiritual growth and support of this family?

Pastor holds child and prays