



Child Dedications

“I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.” And he worshiped the Lord there.” 1 Samuel 1:27-28

What is a child dedication?

Child Dedication is a public commitment you as parents make before God, your family and your church. The dedication service provides you an opportunity to express publicly your desire to lead and spiritually nurture your child in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, so your child will develop a desire to love God and love others.

Why do we do it?

The scriptural root of child dedication is found in 1 Samuel 1:27-28. Another biblical example comes from Luke 2 where following the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the temple and dedicated him. In both of these scripture passages, the parents entrusted their child completely to God.

We also see in Deuteronomy 6:5-9, Moses describes God's plan for how parents should raise up a child...

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie

Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.”

Luke 2:22-23 (NLT)



them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.”

Responsibilities involved in child dedication.

Christian parents who dedicate their child are making a promise to the Lord to do everything within their power to raise the child in a godly way, prayerfully until he or she can make a decision on his or her own to follow Christ. Parents who make this commitment are instructed to raise the child in the ways of the Lord. Some of the responsibilities are teaching and training the child according to God’s Word, demonstrating and being an example of godly living and perhaps most importantly praying earnestly for the child.

What is the difference between child dedication and baptism?

Here at Groton Bible Chapel we believe that child dedication and baptism are two separate events. Child dedication is the parents making the decision publicly to raise their child in the ways of the Lord. Once the child is older and has grown in the knowledge of the Lord, baptism is the submerging into water as a public declaration by an individual of their personal relationship with Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

In the Bible the order is first faith, then baptism. We are saved by believing the gospel of which baptism is not a part. Repentance and faith in Christ must come first.

What will happen during the worship service on Dedication Sunday?

On the Sunday that we will have the dedication ceremony, Meghan will meet with those families who are dedicating prior to the start of the service to show them where to sit in the sanctuary. After praise and worship is finished, Meghan will share a few words on dedication with the congregation before one of the Elders will join her to call the families to join them on the stage.

Families will be called on stage by name and as they transition onto the platform, they will be handed a certificate and flowers to commemorate the public decision they are making. Once the families are on stage they will be asked several questions to which they will all respond together by simply stating “we will”. The congregation will then be asked to join you in prayer for your children. Once the ceremony is complete the families can move off stage to retake their seats.

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” Mark 16:16

“Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8

“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel - not with wisdom or eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.”

1 Corinthians 1:17

“And you were included when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.”

Ephesians 1:13