

Child Dedication

Parent meeting

I. Differences between Baptism and Child Dedication:

The power of baptism isn't in the act, but in the repentance and life change.

Baptism is a symbol of that change. Just like a wedding ring is a symbol of marriage, but if you remove the ring, you are still married.

An infant or young child cannot make the decision on their own to follow Christ yet, so that's why we don't baptize infants. We dedicate them which says, we as parents and fellow believers will do everything we can to create a lifestyle for this child so that one day they will make the decision to accept Christ and be baptized.

There are distinct differences between dedication and baptism in the Scriptures
Here are a few regarding

Baptism:

- Mark 1:4 – And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- Acts 2:38 – Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized every one of you for the forgiveness of your sins.”
- Acts 2:41 – Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Dedication:

- Luke 2:21, 22—Jesus taken to the temple and was dedicated to God by Joseph and Mary. Presenting children was a part of the Jewish tradition. It was an act of humility in acknowledging that God has entrusted us with our children but ultimately they are His.
- I Samuel 1:24-28 – Hannah's example of giving back to God what he gave to her.

II. What are we as parents communicating through this act of dedication?

1. Presenting your child (children) and your family
2. Acknowledging your responsibility
3. Assuring that God will be remembered in future generations of your families
4. Preparing your children for the life they have ahead of them
5. Making yourselves available to God and all that He has planned for your families

III. How can we as parents accomplish this?

4 action steps:

The Youth & Family Institute has identified four keys that are essential for nurturing the faith, values, and character foundation of children, youth, and adults.

1. Family Devotions – worship, bible reading, discussion and prayer
Ex: God Time/Memory verse cards sent home weekly/monthly for kids

2. Spiritual Conversations – bring God into life conversations, talk about what a bible story or scripture passage means, memorize bible verses and discuss their application to life
Ex: weekly/monthly Parent Cue sheets
3. Serving together – working together on a common goal creates bonding
Ex: serving in Epic Adventure, Growth Group service projects
4. Family Traditions – church, holiday celebrations, birthdays, extended family.

IV. What to expect on Parent-Child Dedication Sunday

- We will meet with Pastor Jeremy, prior to the gathering, in the Prayer Room (Room 203).
- Reserved seating for you and your family will be on the east side of the gym.

Act of Dedication

“ _____(Name)_____, I dedicate you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Dedication

“Parents as you present these children do you confess your personal faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and do you promise before God and these witnesses that you will, with God’s help and guidance, undertake to influence these little ones to come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, making use of all the helps God has given you in the family, and in the church of Jesus Christ.”

Parental Response: “We do.”

Congregation’s Commitment:

“If you are able and willing to commit yourself to pledge your support to these parents through prayer and example, please rise and read with me the Congregation’s Commitment.”

(on screens – congregation reads)

With God’s help, we will live our lives after the example of Jesus Christ, so that these children and all the children who come to this church may be surrounded by unconditional love, established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in a way that leads them to follow Jesus Christ wholeheartedly as their personal Savior.

Prayer of Dedication