

Child & Parent DEDICATION



Child & Parent Dedication

The Child & Parent Dedication Ceremony, sometimes referred to as a “Baby Dedication”, is a public declaration of the parent or parents before God, acknowledging that a child is a precious gift from Him. It is a special moment in which parents publicly commit themselves to raise their children according to God's standards. Not only are you dedicating your child to God, but you are also dedicating yourselves as parents to God and His Church.

As a parent, the quality of your devotion to God will make a lasting impression on your child. Through this ceremony, you commit to maintaining a Christian home in which Christ is honored and the Word of God is held in reverence. Christian parents are to do all they can to point their child to God until they can make their own choice regarding a relationship with God in Jesus Christ. As parents you will need God’s wisdom and help in raising your child and with His help you commit to doing your best to set the example for this child to follow in the way of the Lord.



The responsibilities that God has entrusted to Christian parents include continuously praying for their children (Job 1:5), instructing them in the way of the Lord (Prov. 22:6), setting a Godly example (Prov. 20:7), disciplining them as the Lord would discipline us (Prov. 29:15,17; 13:24) and not exasperating them (Eph. 6:4). These responsibilities can only be fulfilled in Christ’s strength (Phil. 4:13).

Guidelines for Dedication

Here are a few principles that guide the way we practice this special ceremony at First Baptist Church:

- The Child & Parent Dedication ceremony does not involve baptism. We believe that baptism, according to the Bible, is meant to take place at a time when an individual has personally received Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and is old enough to profess their faith in him publicly.
- Since your connection with the Church is vital to the vows you will make, parents who participate in this ceremony must demonstrate a consistent commitment to being involved in the life of our church.
- Parents who have not placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord will be unable to submit their children to God's will and His ways, because they themselves do not know the ways of the Lord. As a result, we must decline any requests to involve an unbelieving parent in the dedication of a child.
- Only a couple committed to Christ and married (a man and a woman) or a single parent committed to Christ and not living with someone outside of marriage may participate in the ceremony.
- We believe that unmarried parents living together are not setting a Christian example and will be advised to separate or wait until they are married to dedicate their child.
- A believing parent may dedicate a child independently of an unbelieving spouse.
- Single parents who dedicate their children may not have boyfriends or girlfriends present with them on the platform.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I dedicate my child?

In the Bible we see several examples of how parents dedicate themselves and their children to God. We see how Hannah dedicated her son Samuel to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:27, 28). We also see how Jesus was dedicated to the Lord as a baby in the temple (Luke 2:22) and baptized as an adult (Matthew 3:13-17).



As followers of Christ, we should also want to make a public declaration to our family, and our church of our dedication to living exemplary lives and raising a child with the hope that one day they will follow in God's ways.

In Mark 10:11-13 we also read of how Jesus welcomed the little children to himself and blessed them:

...People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And He took the children in His arms, put His hand on them and blessed them.

It is from these passages of scripture that we model our ceremony of dedication and present a child to the Lord for His blessing over their life, declaring our commitment as parents to raising them in His way.

What happens during the ceremony?

During the ceremony, the Pastor will ask the parents to bring their child to the platform. You will vow before God and the congregation, much like wedding vows, declaring your commitments before God and the Church. The Pastor will then hold and pray a blessing over your child and ask the congregation stand as a demonstration of their support. You will then receive a Dedication Certificate and be seated following the Pastor's concluding prayer.

What vows will I be asked to make during the ceremony?

The following three questions will be asked of the parent(s):

- Do you recognize and solemnly declare your dependence upon Almighty God for the wisdom, help and blessing you will need to nurture your child?
- Do you commit to instructing your child in the teachings of Jesus Christ, to read the Word of God regularly and pray with and for your child?
- Do you intend to raise up your child in the Church family, with the prayer that, in due time, your child may receive Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior?

How old should the child be?

While there is no set age, children are most often presented within the first two years of their life.

Can I as a grandparent dedicate my grandchild?

Yes, if you have full custody and the child lives with you. The person making a public vow should be the child's caretaker who is responsible for the upbringing of the child.

What about godparents?

There is nothing mentioned in the Bible about godparents. Parents themselves have the responsibility to raise up their children in the way of the Lord. Some parents may like to call witnesses to confirm their commitment. These may be relatives or loved ones who know the parents well and who themselves are Christians and faithful to the Lord.

What if I am a believer but my spouse is not?

If only one parent is a believer, the dedication of the child can be done if the unbelieving parent has given permission.

What if I live with the child's father/mother but we are not married?

The Child and Parent Dedication ceremony is actually a declaration where the parents are to dedicate themselves to bring their children up in God's ways. It is not possible to make such a declaration when living in opposition to the Word of God. We are very supportive of parents and encourage them to be married and then proceed with the Baby Dedication.

Should the child be dressed a special way?

No. You can dress the child in whatever clothes you wish.

Can we take pictures during the ceremony?

Picture taking is permissible if done without interference. Please make sure that your guests are aware that they should use discretion when taking pictures during the ceremony.

What is expected of me after I dedicate my child?

Dedication is a pledge to cultivate a spiritual atmosphere in the home. One must never underestimate the incredible influence a parent has on the faith of their children. Infant dedication expresses the intention and faith of the parents to do everything they can to lead their child to personal salvation in Christ. It is a public pledge to surround the child with a positive environment that will nurture their faith in God. Scripture tells us that we are to train a child in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). This includes meeting together regularly as Christians to spur one another onto love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:23-24). Dedication of children to God is a promise to model a Christian lifestyle to the children while worshiping with a church family regularly.

Connecting with the Pastor

For a personal visit to go over this information and to schedule your Child & Parent Dedication with our church, please use the information below to connect with the Pastor.

If at this time you do not meet these guidelines, we would love to have the opportunity to help assist you so that you can position yourself and family for God's best.

If you have any questions regarding the Child & Parent Dedication ceremony or desire to have a personal visit for any reason, please contact the office.

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*The materials in this booklet have been adapted from:
“A Manual for Worship and Service” from Canadian Baptist Ministries.
“Baby Dedication” by Relevant Church, Woodland Hills.*



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