



BABY / CHILD DEDICATION

Psalm 139:13: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

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We are excited to celebrate this special day with you and your family!

Being a parent is one of the greatest joys in life, but it's no easy task. Often, you feel that nagging feeling in your gut that makes you wonder, "Am I doing this whole parenting thing right?" But there's good news! You don't have to parent alone, that's where child dedication comes in. You get to stand in front of your church family and commit to raising your child alongside your church family.

We know that, as a parent, you're the most important influence in your child's life. But you're not the only influence your child needs. Child dedication is an opportunity to invite others to develop and influence your child as they grow in their faith. It can relieve a lot of parenting pressure because you get to partner with people who will love and support you and your family.

Your kids don't begin to follow Jesus by accident. As parents we need to be intentional in introducing them to Jesus. When you dedicate your child, you're deciding that you will raise your kids knowing who Jesus is.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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."

We love God with everything in us, and we model that for our kids because we know that our example is far more powerful than our words. We teach our kids what it looks like to follow Jesus. And we talk about it and think about it often. Leading kids to live like Jesus isn't a checkbox on a parenting to-do list. It's an intentional, ongoing conversation that shapes who they are now and who they're becoming.

1. Do my kids need to be dedicated for them to be Christian?

Child dedication is a great step for your family, but it's certainly not the same thing as salvation.

Salvation is what happens when your child decides to start a relationship with God, and baptism is when they decide to go public with their faith. Child dedication is less about your child's choice now and more about setting them up for those choices later.

When you dedicate your child, you're committing to raise them in an environment where they hear about Jesus and have an opportunity to accept Him. It's a great practice, but it is optional.

2. What's the big deal about child dedication?

Child dedications are a spiritually significant milestone for your whole family. When you dedicate your child, you're choosing to make some parenting decisions that honour God, modelling what it looks like to be planted in the church through serving, and showing your kids an example of what living generously looks like. While it sounds like you've got more things to do, you're actually lightening the load because you're committing to do these things in partnership with the church and a community of believers.

3. When can you dedicate your child?

That's your decision. You can dedicate your child whether they're three days old or 13-years old. The age doesn't matter as much as the principle.

Child dedication is an important step in your family's faith life because it's setting a foundation that your family will be known for following Christ. So, consider choosing a family verse, picking family values, or finding friends that will help you grow in these values and become the people God has called you to be.

Parenting doesn't have to feel overwhelming. Let's parent together – trusting that with multiple voices and collective influence, our kids will be trained up in the right ways they should go.