

Child Dedication

Purpose and Requirements

Purpose of Dedication

Dedicating a child to the Lord doesn't secure their salvation; we believe children are already under God's saving grace up to an age of accountability known to God in each case. Rather, Child Dedication is an opportunity for the parents to:

- Gratefully recognize and affirm that their child ultimately comes from and belongs to God, and is a gift entrusted to their care for just a time (Psalm 127:3, Proverb 22:6);
- Surrender their child to God's will for his or her life above the parent's own plans (1 Samuel 1:27-28);
- Dedicate themselves as parents to model godliness and raise their child in accordance with God's instructions found in His Word (Psalm 78:4-7 and Ephesians 6:1-4).

Requirements for Participation

While God's ideal intention for child-rearing is a two-parent home, involving a father and mother, He works redemptively and effectively in all types of family situations, as we place our faith in Him and seek to live according to His ways.

An authentic dedication to raise children by modeling and instructing them in Christian faith and life requires certain guidelines for those who would participate in the dedication ceremony.

In general, those dedicating a child should be living a Christian life and have significant (if not primary) responsibility for raising the child, along with the following:

- Babies and children through age 5 are eligible for child dedication (if you desire to dedicate an older child, please speak with the church representative about your situation);
- If both father and mother are participating, they need to be married and living together;
- Single parents need to have at least partial custody of and/or regular legally sanctioned involvement in the child's life;
- Unwed Mothers and Fathers please contact the church representative beforehand to discuss their situation;

- Grandparents or relatives raising a child need to have legal custody or guardianship.

If you have questions about any of these guidelines or other possible situations, please Contact the church.

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Scriptures Referenced (NIV)

Psalm 127:3

Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him.

Proverbs 22:6

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

1 Samuel 1:27-28

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.

Psalm 78:4-7

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep his commands.