



A baby dedication is a ceremony in which believing parents, and sometimes entire families, make a commitment before the Lord to submit a child to God's will and to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways. Christian parents who dedicate a 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 God. Parents who make this vow of commitment are instructed to raise the child in the ways of God, and not according to their own ways. Some of the responsibilities include teaching and training the child in God's Word, demonstrating an example of godliness, disciplining according to God's ways, and praying earnestly for the child. Many Christian churches practice baby dedication. Although some churches baptize infants, we believe that Christ intended baptism to be for those who have come into the Christian faith through repentance and the new birth.

In the place of infant baptism, the practice of dedicating children to God has become widely observed. Not surprising, there is wide latitude in the interpretation of the ceremony. A precedent was set in Hannah's dedication of Samuel and Joseph and Mary's presentation of Jesus. The act is recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Parents, who have offered themselves to God, desire to publicly extend that commitment to their most priceless possessions – their children.

Child dedication boldly declares three foundational truths about the human condition:

1. That these young persons are precious to God. Their lives are sacred because they are created in God's image to have the capacity of personally relating to Him.
2. In spite of the innocent beauty of these children, we recognize that they are sinners. When they come of age, they need to be redeemed for they, like all of us, are utterly helpless to merit salvation.
3. Dedication declares that Jesus is the rescuer. Jesus invited the little children to come because He knew, better than anyone else did, that they needed Him, too. Acts 4:12 (NLT): "There is a salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

The ceremony is held during a worship service. The parents and child along with any family that they desire to include are invited to the front of the church. The pastor reminds the parents and the congregation of their duties. Following words of dedication spoken by the pastor, prayer is offered for the child and the parents.

Times are regularly scheduled throughout the year for infant dedication. If you would like to dedicate your baby, we invite you to discuss this with one of the pastors.