

Child Dedication

To dedicate means to set something or someone apart for God. Child dedication is the parents' expression of a desire to offer or set apart their child unto the Lord. To dedicate a child to the Lord is to give the child back to the Lord to do with him/her, as He chooses. As long as the child is in the parents' care they commit to train him/her and make him/her accustomed to perceive and understand a way of living in accordance with God's Word.

I. Biblical Foundation

- I Samuel 1:26-28 is an example of Hannah dedicating her son Samuel to the Lord
- Luke 2:22 tells us that Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.
- Ephesians 6:4 "do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"
- Timothy 3:15 Paul reminded Timothy "that from childhood you have known the sacred writings."

II. What It Is Not

Baby dedication is not salvation or baptism. It is not a special impartation of grace but it is a time of commitment.

III. What It Is

A baby dedication...

- Encourages parents to consider seriously their responsibility as spiritual models and guides for their children.
- Provides an opportunity for parents to publicly thank God for their child and to ask His blessing on their endeavor to be faithful parents.
- Provides an example and encouragement to other parents to follow God's guidance in raising their children.
- Reminds the community of believers the value of family and the importance of giving support to the family.