

Parent/Child Dedication

The dedication of children is a voluntary act in which believing parents publicly present their child to the Lord as an outward expression of their gratitude to Him for the child (Ps. 127:3) and as a formal appeal to God for His assistance in the rearing of the child. It is not to be confused with infant baptism, is not to be viewed as an ordinance of the church, and is not to be considered capable of imparting salvation.

Because the child is a gift from God, the parents promise, as God's stewards, to bring up the child entrusted to them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21).

In dedicating their child in the presence of fellow believers, parents are publicly dedicating themselves to the faithful fulfillment of their parental responsibilities (Deut. 6:4-9; Prov. 22:6) and are acknowledging their need of the prayerful support and encouragement of those fellow believers (Eph. 6:18; Heb. 10:24-25).

The act of child dedication becomes meaningful only as the parents explain to the child the meaning of this act and consistently carry out the promises made before God and the brethren at the time of dedication.

The dedication service is more than a ritual. It is a commitment of parents to honor the will and the Word of God. As a part of this dedication, you as parents will be asked: Do you commit...

1. To pray with and for your children?
2. To instruct them faithfully in the doctrines of the Christian faith?
3. To teach them to read the Word of God, to pray, and to love the Lord with all their hearts?
4. To bring them to the house of worship to attend its services?
5. To do all that is in your power to bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?
6. To encourage them to pursue a life of service for the glory of God?

TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURES

Jesus Christ's Example: *"And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22).*

Jesus Christ's Teaching: *"And they began bringing children to Him, so that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, 'Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all.' And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them" (Mark 10:13-16).*

The Example of Hannah and Samuel: *"And she, greatly distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. And she made a vow and said, 'O Lord of hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thy maidservant and remember me, and not forget Thy maidservant, but will give Thy maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come to his head'" (1 Sam. 1:10-11)*

"And she said, 'Oh, my Lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord.' And he worshiped the Lord there" (1 Sam. 1:26-28).

The Responsibility of Godly Parents: *"And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deut. 6:6-7).*

"And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

Parent/Child Dedication

We have read the Parent/Child Dedication brochure and desire to present our child/children to the Lord. We agree to be diligent in fulfilling our duties as parents.

Father's Name: _____

Father's Signature: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Mother's Signature: _____

Child's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth _____

Child's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth _____

Child's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth _____