

Baby Dedications - What We Believe

By Rowan

So you want to get your baby / children dedicated?

Congratulations! This is something that we absolutely LOVE to do as a church. It's supported by scripture, and we have found God to abundantly bless and grace us with His Presence whenever we hold dedications.

The central thing to understand about dedications, is that it is a time where you as a parent(s) do just that -dedicate your child, and by implication the parenting years ahead, to God. This "giving over to God" can, of course, be done privately between you and Him, but there's an added benefit to making a ceremony of sorts out of it and sharing it with your church family.

We believe that as we offer faith-filled prayers and release God's words over you and your child(ren) God honors that with an increased ability on you as a parent(s) and an increased sensitivity of your child(ren) to the things of God. (1 Tim. 4:14)

Jesus said "let the little children come to me". Among the many other ways we nurture and teach our children as a church, baby dedications are a way of expressing our desire to do this early and often in a child's life. In addition to this, we want to express the sentiment and Biblical model of Hannah in 1 Sam. 1. It's a beautiful story. As you read it remember that now, in the New Testament, it's your heart that's the "temple of the Lord".

Important note: Baby Dedication is a public choice that you make as a parent to dedicate your baby/child and your parenting to God. It's not infant baptism, nor a way of guaranteeing admission into heaven for your child, for the Bible teaches that before the age of accountability, this is done through the parent's faith (1 Cor. 7:14).

Once a child is old enough to personally invite Jesus into his/her heart and decide to follow Jesus, we suggest you speak with them about baptism. How old does a child need to be for baptism? The only thing Biblically required here is a conscious choice on behalf of the individual to become a Christian. Our kids were eager to be baptised but my wife and I wanted our kids to also be old enough to actually remember the event in later life so we used age 7-9 as a rule-of-thumb. This is essentially between God and you as parents and the child, and we're happy to "dedicate" even if they have prayed a salvation prayer but just not yet quite old enough to be baptized. No hard and fast rules here!

Baby dedications can be powerful, life-changing times not only for you as a parent but also for us as a church family to pray into and to join our faith with yours for the years ahead. And, of course, to celebrate your child.