

# Frequently Asked Questions about Child Dedication

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## What is child dedication?

Child Dedication is parental recognition of a solemn responsibility and trust - a responsibility to raise your child in the nurture and instruction of the Lord. The Dedication Service provides you, as a parent, an opportunity to make this commitment public before God, your friends, and family.

A Biblical Practice: A precedent for the ceremony of baby dedication is found throughout the Scriptures.

### **God commanded His people through Moses to teach the children diligently all of His ways.**

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."*

### **Hannah and Elkanah presented their son, Samuel, to the Lord:**

*"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.' And he worshiped the Lord there." I Samuel 1:27-28*

### **Paul reminded Timothy of his spiritual heritage:**

*"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." II Timothy 1:5, 3:15*

### **Mary and Joseph presented Jesus back to God in an act of worship and dedication:**

*"When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. And the Child grew and become strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him." Luke 2:22, 40*

### **A Parental Pledge:**

A benchmark you can return to time and time again of a family dedication, where you as parents publicly commit yourselves to abide by Biblical principles and raise your child according to God's standards. Not only are you dedicating your child to God, you are dedicating yourselves, as parents, to Christ and to the church. You are committing yourselves to maintaining a Christian home, where Christ is honored, and the Word of God is held in reverence. As a result, you assume the responsibility for your child's spiritual development. *"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."* Ephesians 6:4

The act of dedication is not a saving ordinance whereby your child's soul is saved, rather it is a public expression of the fact that he/she belongs to God. He has given your child to you and you are humbly returning the "gift" back to Him. You, as parents, are "setting apart" your child for a life of Christian character.

Be assured that when you give your child to Christ, you are placing him into the hands of infinite Love and Power. There is no safer and sweeter place in the entire vast universe than in His Holy Hands!

As you are faithful in fulfilling your spiritual responsibility to your child, he/she will be prepared to respond to Christ's love personally as he/she sees it displayed in your home and in your relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Who may participate?**

Parents who can truthfully say, "I will commit myself to raising this child to know the Lord." Membership at Cucamonga Christian Fellowship is not a requirement to participate but we do believe that long term success in your families' spiritual journey is greatly enhanced when committed to a local fellowship. We only ask that you be regular attendees with a desire to raise/bring your child up in a Godly, Christ centered home.

### **I'm a single parent. May I still dedicate my child?**

Absolutely!

### **Who should we invite to the Dedication Service?**

The Child Dedication Service is a very special time, so be sure to invite your family, friends, and/or GRACE group members. There is no limit on the number of guests you may invite!

### **What about GOD-parents?**

At CCF we don't use the specific term "God parents"; however, we certainly support the concept and your choice of significant individuals to offer support and encouragement and to hold you accountable to the commitment you will be making. Furthermore, we will happily include your choice of these individuals in the service and only ask that you let us know ahead of time.

### **I'm a new believer, and I am a little nervous about all of this.**

If you are a new Christian, we are delighted to be a part of this important step in your newly found walk with Jesus. Our intent is to come alongside you and help ensure that the Child Dedication is a non-threatening process that will be a personal time of deep significance for you and your family.

### **What will happen at the Child Dedication?**

1. Parents and children meet in the sanctuary 15 minutes prior to service to check in. Pastor Don will greet you and provide instructions. It is important that you arrive early.
2. The first few rows in front of the platform will be reserved for you and your guests.
3. At the designated time (usually prior to mingle time), parents and children will be instructed to join Pastor Fraser on the platform.
4. Pastor will ask a family member to introduce the family and the child (ren) that is to be dedicated and age(s).
5. Pastor will then instruct the congregation on why we dedicate children at CCF.
6. Pastor will then encourage the family on the importance of this great step.
7. Pastor will ask the parents the following questions regarding their commitment to Dedication. After each question, parents are to respond in unison with, "I/We do." (See below for questions.)
  - To the Congregation:
    - Do you gathered here choose this day to support, encourage and love this family from this day forward?
    - Do you promise to be a faithful witness of Christ in heart and deed for the hope in Christ given to this child today?
  - To the Family:
    - In presenting your children for dedication to the Lord, do you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? Response: I/We do.

- Do you understand:
    - Your child is a gift from God? Response: I/We do.
    - Your child must see God's love and truth lived out in your life day by day? Response: I/We do.
    - You must love your child with unconditional love, so that he/she will understand where and how to embrace love in Jesus, life and family. Response: I/We do.
    - You must discipline your child, so that he/she will understand right and wrong, safe and unsafe, security and danger. Response: I/We do.
    - You must forgive your child, so that they know the world is not perfect and neither will they be but through forgiving grace they see the glimpses of God's ultimate forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Response: I/We do.
    - You must laugh with your child, so that they know the depths of great joy. Response: I/We do.
    - You must cry with your child, so that they may know the depths of sorrow in this life. Response: I/We do.
    - You must consistently pray for your child's spiritual growth and protection for the rest of for the rest of your life. Response: I/We do.
    - You must demonstrate a healthy marriage relationship with each other and understand it is vital to the emotional and spiritual well being of your child. Response: I/We do.
  - Do you promise to do your best to faithfully\* attend church with your child and will you seek to lead your child to a personal faith\* in Jesus Christ? Response: I/We do.  
*(\*Please note: If you cannot honestly make this promise at this time, we would request that you call and schedule a meeting with the pastor prior to scheduling your child for dedication)*
8. We recognize that praying publicly may be difficult for some families yet we want to give you the option to pray over your child. On the Child Dedication application, we have included a list of questions to share your heart and a place to write a prayer that parents can fill out and give to the Pastor before the dedication. If you don't feel you can share your prayer personally, the Pastor would be willing to share this prayer with the congregation for you. Please know this part is optional.
  9. At this point the Pastor will pray for the parents and then anoint the child (ren) with oil and pray for him/her.
  10. Following the Prayer of Dedication, return down the same stairway. As you exit the stage, you will receive a Dedication Certificate with a place for you to sign and a Bible to commemorate this day.
  11. Please feel free to take your child to his or her appropriate classroom and return to the sanctuary for the remainder of the service.
  12. You may video and take as many photographs that you like during the dedication. After the service we encourage family photos. Pastor will be available to take a photo with the family if desired.