

Child Dedication

Faith Bible Church

The dedication of children and parents is one of the pleasures of the ministry of a local church. It is a time of rejoicing in the gift of God and also a time of reflecting on the commitment to be stewards of the gift. To aid in understanding child dedication the following may be helpful:

A. What Child Dedication is Not:

1. Child dedication is not baptism. We believe that baptism is reserved for those who have made a conscious decision regarding the Person and work of Jesus Christ, and have by faith in Him appropriated God's gift of salvation. It is an outward symbol of their identification with Jesus Christ.
2. Child dedication is not a guarantee that the child will make that conscious decision, or that God is under obligation to apply the merit of Christ to the child because of the faith of the parent.

B. What Child Dedication Is:

1. Child dedication is an act of worship. It is recognition that the child is a gift of God's grace in fulfilling His command to be "fruitful and multiply" which He gave to the first parents. It is testimony of that of the psalmist who said: "Behold children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward." Psalm 127:3
2. Child dedication is an act of the will of the parents to publicly testify to their commitment to be faithful stewards of the gift with which God has blessed them. God has entrusted to them a life that is to be nurtured and raised for His glory. In order to help the parents fulfill that responsibility He has given principles in His application of those principles. It is in reality a dedication of the parents to honor the Lord by being faithful to their responsibility.

C. What the Child Dedication Service Involves:

The service itself is rather simple, and involves the public affirmation on the part of the parents, the commitment of the church family and a prayer of dedication. The public affirmation is the response of the parents to the following questions:

1. Have you put your faith in the Person of Jesus Christ, that He is who He claimed to be, that He died as your substitute for sin, and that it is the merit of His righteousness alone that brings you into fellowship with God the Father?

2. Have you willingly made a commitment to the purpose of glorifying God in all areas of life, including personal conduct, public conversation, and the priority of establishing and maintaining a Christian home?
3. Do you publicly commit yourself as parents to raise your child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, realizing your responsibility to be faithful stewards of this life God has entrusted to you? As part of fulfilling this commitment do you promise to live before your child a life transformed by the gospel of grace, to share the truth of that gospel with your child so that they may come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and to be diligent, in both formal and informal settings, to teach your child his responsibility to love God wholeheartedly?
4. To the church: do you, the family of faith, commit yourselves to model the Christian life before this child, and to pray for and support this family that they might indeed fulfill their God-given responsibilities?

Following the affirmation of commitment a prayer of dedication will be offered.