

Century Baptist Church

Parent and Child Dedication Service

2012 Dates and Application Deadlines

February 12 (January 25)
May 13 (April 25)
August 26 (August 8)
November 18 (October 31)

Biblical Precedent

A child is a God-given trust (Psalm 127:3). Child dedication is a ceremony that signifies your commitment to uphold that trust. It is an event that symbolizes your pledge to raise your child in a Christian home and church where he or she can come to know, love, and serve Jesus. It also signifies a commitment by the people of Century Baptist Church to provide a loving, biblical community that supports and prays for your family.

We dedicate children following the example of godly parents in the Bible who publicly dedicated their children to God because he had entrusted them to their care.

1 Samuel 1:27-28

Hannah dedicated Samuel with these words: "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."

Genesis 22

Abraham was willing to sacrifice his child to God. Of course God prevented Isaac from any harm, but the full intent of Abraham was to obey God and to give his child back to the One who gave him. As a result of Abraham's obedience, great blessing came upon him and his family.

Luke 2:22

Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the temple "to present Him to the Lord".

Responsibilities of Christian Parents

The responsibilities God has entrusted to Christian parents include:

- ...a petition for the congregation and pastors to support you as parents, and to pray for the Lord's direction in both your life and your child's.
- continuously praying for their children (Job 1:5)
- instructing them in the way of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6)
- setting a Godly example (Proverbs 20:7) by modeling their own faith through the practical application of biblical truths, and by showing their children the meaning of fellowship and servanthood through involvement in their church.
- disciplining them as the Lord would discipline us (Proverbs 29:15, 17; 13:24).

Parent/Child Dedication is NOT.....

- ...a way for your child to receive salvation. Salvation is not based on any performance of duties or any ritual that we go through (Eph. 2:9), but it is a result of one's personal decision to begin a relationship with Jesus Christ. When a person is old enough to see that they are responsible for their sin before God and understand that Christ's death and resurrection provides a remedy for this, they

are faced with a choice to trust and follow Jesus or continue in their sinful ways. This is a decision your son or daughter must make as they grow older.

- ...a substitute for baptism. Baptism does not occur until a person is old enough to know and understand that their sin has separated them from a saving relationship with God, and have chosen to accept God's life-giving grace by becoming a follower of Jesus. Baptism is simply an outward sign of an inner commitment that has already taken place.
- ...only for members of Century Baptist Church. As a believer in the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your own life, it is our privilege to share in your decision to dedicate your child to the Lord.
- ...only for newborn babies. Many times parents who have come to know the Lord, or re-dedicated their lives to the Lord after they have had children, desire to dedicate their children to God, even though they may be older. This is appropriate, and we are glad to share in this joy.

Parent/Child Dedication is.....

- ...a recognition that children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3)
- ...a public declaration as parents that you will raise your child up in the principles of God's Word. (Deut. 6:5-7; Eph. 6:4)
- ...a time of prayer for God's blessing, protection and guidance for your child's life.
- ...a petition for the congregation and pastors to support you as parents, and to pray for the Lord's direction in both your life and your child's.

Procedures

1. **Information Form**--Please fill out the Parent and Child Dedication Form and return it to the church office, along with a photo of your child (digital photos are preferred, but not required), prior to the published deadline.
2. **Interview**—Following this, you will be contacted to set up an interview with a pastor.
3. **Day of Dedication**—those involved in the dedication will meet with a Pastoral Team member 15 minutes before the service begins in the church office. As the Children's Ministry Director introduces you and your child, and reads the scripture verse that you have selected for your child, you will come forward and stand on the platform**. After all participants have been introduced, a pastor will, on an individual basis, confirm the parents' wishes to dedicate their child and pray for each individual child. Following this, the pastor will confirm the congregation's willingness to support you, as parents, in the upbringing of your child. He will then close in prayer. Each child will receive a certificate of dedication as they leave the platform.

** God's desire is that parents, united in faith in Christ, raise their families according to Scripture. Because of the nature of parent and child dedications, it is expected that at least one parent be in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Parents who have not placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will be unable to submit their children to God's will and His ways, because they themselves do not know the ways of the Lord. As a result, we must decline any requests to involve an unbelieving parent in the dedication of a child. A believing parent may dedicate a child independently of an unbelieving spouse. Single parents who dedicate their children may be supported by family and loved ones in the congregation, but not on the platform.

As a parent, your devotion to God—or lack of it—will make a resounding impression on the next generation. May your legacy be a Godly legacy.

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