



HUTTO BIBLE CHURCH

KNOW. LOVE. LIVE. TELL.

PARENT / CHILD DEDICATION

Once again, we will set aside part of our worship services to permit parents to publicly present their children to the Lord. In order to make this ceremony as meaningful as possible, we provide the following pertinent information for your careful consideration:

I. Purpose of Child Dedication – Three possible questions.

A. Why this service? This occasion allows parents to commit their children to God for His blessing on their lives. It is recognition that children are a temporary gift of God given to adults who bear the responsibility for their spiritual development. The importance of this occasion is emphasized by its occurring before the entire church body.

B. What does it signify? This is not a baby baptism that indicates or assures salvation. It does not make a child a Christian. Every person must exercise personal faith in Christ when they are old enough to understand the Gospel. A Child's dedication is more of a spiritual commitment on the part of parents to provide a Christian environment in which a child can easily come to Christ. This involves praying for the child, teaching he/she God's Word and setting a Christian example.

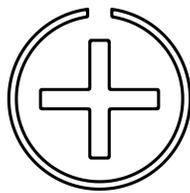
C. Where in Scripture is there a precedent for a child's dedication? In the Old Testament, Hannah presented her son Samuel to the Lord in Shiloh (1 Sam. 1:11). In the New Testament, Jesus was dedicated to God when He was an infant (Luke 2:22). Later in His ministry, Christ allowed parents to bring their little ones to Him for His blessing (Matthew 19:13-15).

II. Participants in a Child's Dedication: Since the primary purpose of this event is the commitment of parents to bring their children up in a Christian home, they themselves must be believers in Christ to carry out this responsibility. If you are unsure of your own relationship with God, you are encouraged to seek counsel with a church leader who can show you from God's Word how to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Those who are certain of their spiritual condition are urged to participate in this ceremony.

III. Plan for the Children's Dedication – Two important considerations:

A. **Please bring your child to the Worship Center 10 minutes prior to the service in which you are participating since the ceremony will occur early in the service.** Participants will be called to the front by the pastor. When your name is called, come to the podium to read your dedication. After the dedication, please take your child to the nursery or his/her class for the remainder of the hour.

B. In order to personalize the dedication of your child and make it a unique experience, you are requested to write something to read to your child. **You will read immediately after the pastor introduces you.** It may be in the form of a prayer, asking God for those things you desire most for your child. Perhaps you will want to write a short note to your child expressing your love and appreciation. If you're poetic, you might consider writing a poem. Some of the most important ingredients you might want to include are the meaning of the child's name, a favorite Scripture verse, some unique factors surrounding his/her birth or adoption, personality features already observable, etc. Do not, however, try to incorporate all of these ideas since it should be a fairly short writing (2 minutes or less!). If you have any questions, please free to call the church office.



PARENT / CHILD DEDICATION CHARGE

TO THE PARENTS: As you stand with the blessings of God in your arms and at your sides, you are making a very deep commitment to God this day. In order to affirm this commitment, please respond with WE DO to the following questions:

PASTOR: Do you, as the parents of these children, promise to pray for and with these Children for their growth in knowledge of God, and in the spiritual life?

PARENTS: We do.

PASTOR: Do you promise to train these Children in body, mind, and soul for service to and fellowship with God?

PARENTS: We do.

PASTOR: Do you promise to do all you can to lead these Children at the proper age to confess their faith in Christ?

PARENTS: We do.

PASTOR: May God's richest blessings continue to rest upon you.

TO THE CONGREGATION: In as much as we are all part of a family here at Hutto Bible Church, we also have an obligation to these children. The obligation is to support these Christian brothers and sisters as they seek to be the proper parents to these children. In order to affirm this commitment, please respond with WE DO.

PASTOR: Do you promise to support these brothers and sisters as they seek the Lord's help in living as examples before their children?

PARENTS: We do.

PASTOR: May God's richest blessings continue to rest upon you as well.