

Child Dedication (FAQ's)

What does it mean to dedicate a child?

At its core, child dedication is a response of worship in light of God's gift of children. When we bring our children, of any age, before God's people in order to dedicate them to God, we are doing two things. First, we are publicly committing them to God's care by committing ourselves to raise them in the love and instruction of Christ. In some sense, we might call this a "parent dedication" instead of a "child dedication". After we have responded to this call to commitment, second, there is an opportunity for the pastor to bless the child with a special blessing. While this blessing should not be viewed as guarantee of God's favor, it is a prayer of faith, spoken in the midst of God's people, that we pray God will honor by working in that child to turn them to Jesus Christ in God's good timing.

Is child dedication in the Bible?

While there is not a passage that specifically prescribes this, child dedication is a practice built on many clear biblical truths. The Old Testament gives us several examples of how children were welcomed into the community of God's people (cf. Genesis 17:9-12) or committed to God's care (cf. I Samuel 1:27, 28). The Lord Jesus himself made clear his desire to bless children (cf. Mark 10:13-16), and the Old and New Testaments both confirm God's call upon parents to raise their children to know and love God (cf. Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:4; II Timothy 3:14, 15).

How are parents involved in this process?

Parents are the ones who must make the initial decision to bring a child forward to be dedicated. Since there is nothing compulsory about child dedication, this decision should be motivated by a desire for Jesus Christ to be at the center of the lives of both parents and child. The process begins with a special time for parents to meet with the pastor in order to talk about what God's word tells us about being Christ-centered parents. This meeting takes place at some point in the weeks preceding the Sunday morning dedication service. On that Sunday, since there will be a call to commitment for parents, any parent who comes forward to stand before the church should themselves be a committed follower of Jesus Christ. During the second part of this time, any parent may stand with the child for the pastoral blessing, regardless of his or her spiritual commitments.

How can we (I) dedicate a child?

To find out when the next dedication service is and arrange a time to meet with the pastor, please contact the church at 623.478.2130 or via e-mail at info@wayofgracechurch.com.