

Child Dedication

Advance Community Church

While the below information will explain Advance's view on Child Dedication, it is vital to understand that we consider a practice like this to be secondary doctrine (not essential for salvation and therefore should not be a divisive issue within the church). We have chosen to practice Child Dedication as a response to what is presented in the Bible.

Baby dedication is a commitment to raise your child in the ways of the Lord. This dedication is not a statement of salvation for your child, but rather a statement of how you will raise your child. While not a command of Scripture, baby dedication can be a symbol – similar to a wedding band – of your desire to obediently raise your child in the knowledge and instruction of the Lord. It should be done with a community of believers who know you personally and can commit to walking with you in this commitment.

The Village Church (Dallas, TX)

Soon after a child is born, many families in the protestant faith will dedicate their child to the Lord signifying "*this child is from God and we intend to raise him/her in the truths of the gospel as revealed in the Word of God*". At Advance Community Church we include child dedications in our Sunday services. The dedication is "intended to be a public statement by the parents that they will train their children in the Christian faith and seek to instill that faith in them. The congregation often responds through responsive reading or some other method to affirm that they, as a church family, will also seek to encourage the parents to bring up the child in the faith. There is no implied salvation in the ceremony." (www.gotquestions.org)

The dedication of a child to the Lord can certainly be found in the Bible. Hannah was a barren wife who promised to dedicate her child to God if He would give her a son ([1 Samuel 1:11](#)). [Luke 2:22](#) begins the account of Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple after forty days in order to dedicate Him to the Lord. Back then, it was a more involved process since it involved a sacrifice, but once again this ceremony did not indicate any level of salvation. Furthermore, we find evidence of what Christian parents are committing to in Scriptural texts such as Deuteronomy 6, Psalm 78, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6, and many more.

We practice child dedication as an extension of the Gospel. It provides several positive encouragements of the faith to God and others.

1. It honors Jesus Christ as the Giver of Life and Head of the Church.
2. It shows intentionality and stewardship on behalf of the child's parents.
3. It is a joyful occasion for the church as they celebrate what God has done in your family.
4. It invites the community of believers within the church to support the parents in discipleship through prayer, mentorship, encouragement, and Christian education.
5. It is a witness to those who observe the dedication who are not yet saved.

We thank God for parents who desire to raise their children under the Lordship of Christ.