
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

Parenting Purposefully to Honor Christ

Parent/Child Dedication Sunday

April 19, 2026 • Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous – and how well I know it. ¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. (Psalm 139:13-16, NLT)

1. Psalm 139 teaches us that _____ child on earth is born by the distinct purpose of God. There are NO _____!

You are not an accident. Your birth was no mistake or mishap, and your life is no fluke of nature. Your parents may not have planned you, but God did. He was not at all surprised by your birth. In fact, he expected it.

God prescribed every single detail of your body. He deliberately chose your race, the color of your skin, your hair, and every other feature. He custom-made your body just the way He wanted it. He also determined the natural talents you would possess and the uniqueness of your personality.

*Because God made you for a reason, he also decided when you would be born and how long you would live. He planned the days of your life in advance, choosing the exact time of your birth and death. (Rick Warren, **The Purpose Driven Life**)*

- 2. Psalm 139 also teaches us that YOU are the person the Lord has _____ to parent and prepare your child to _____ their purpose on earth and to help _____ them for eternity!**

*Many children are unplanned by their parents, but they are not unplanned by God. God's purpose took into account human error, and even sin. God never does anything accidentally, and He never makes mistakes. He has a reason for everything He creates. (Rick Warren, **The Purpose Driven Life.**)*

- 3. Every person alive is born _____ because the Bible teaches us that we are _____ from the moment of our conception.**

⁵For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. ⁶But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.

⁷Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice. ⁹Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. ¹¹Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. ¹³Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. (Psalm 51:5-13, NLT)

²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. (Romans 3:23-26, NLT)

⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts. (1 John 1:8-10, NLT)

4. As parents, the Lord has given you an incredible _____! You are the ones who will be held accountable for training up your child in a way that allows them the opportunity to both _____ the Lord as their Savior and to _____ the Lord with their lives.

- **Teach your child to _____ the Bible and to spend time reading it each day.**
- **Teach your child to know the _____ of the Bible and the need to live by its guidelines.**
- **Teach your child about Jesus' _____ for them and what His birth, life, death, and resurrection mean for His people and our world.**
- **Teach your child about having a _____ with Jesus and encourage them to engage in conversations with Him each day.**
- **Pray for the Lord to put godly _____ and wise _____ around them along their journey that will _____ them in their walk with Jesus.**

5. First Baptist Dyersburg will be here to support and encourage you. But the simple fact is that we as a church do not have much time with your children over the course of a year, which is why your responsibility as a parent is so vital to your child's spiritual development.

- **_____ hours of church per week = _____ hours per year. When compared to our 7-hour school day, that is _____ days of instruction the church has with your child each year (if they have perfect attendance!) Tennessee requires _____ days of instruction per school year.**

Remember – one day your child will be an adult. They will pack their bags and walk out of your home to fulfill their God-given purpose in this world. Because of this fact, you must be intentional in your parenting now – making sure that you run the race well, always keeping the end in mind. Be committed to live each day on mission as a parent that honors Christ because the years ahead will pass quickly – and each day matters for all eternity!