

*Malvern Hill Baptist Church*

# Family and Child Dedication Policy

As a church family, we take Family and Child Dedication seriously because we believe that children are a blessing and that our calling as parents is one of the most important callings that God places on the life of his followers.



**SENIOR PASTOR**

*Craig Thompson*

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER**

*Rhonda Adams*

**SENIOR ADULT PASTOR**

*Buster Morris*

**WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR**

*Keven Newsome*

**STUDENT MINISTRY PASTOR**

*Adam Whiteside*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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# The Purpose of Family and Child Dedication

Family and Child Dedication is not a biblical command, however it is something that we see in Scripture (1 Samuel 1:27-28, Luke 2:22). The word “dedication” means to consecrate or set someone apart for the purpose of honoring God. Therefore, when we have family and child dedication, we are declaring our desire to raise a child in the knowledge and understanding of the Lord. It is not a statement of salvation for your child, neither is it baptism. Instead, it is a time for you to publicly declare your commitment to live out the calling of Deuteronomy 6:5-9:

**5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

We incorporate this time as a part of a special worship service and invite members of our church because it should be done within the context of a church family who will commit to walking with you, holding you accountable, and providing wisdom, guidance, and help as you seek to raise your children.



## What does Family and Child Dedication Involve?

During our dedication worship service, we will have the parents or guardians come forward with their family including the child(ren) who we are dedicating. The senior pastor will give a charge to the families and to the church reminding us of our responsibilities as we make this commitment. The pastor will then issue vows of commitment and dedication to both the congregation and the parents who will respond with “We do” or “We will.”

# Who Can Participate in Family and Child Dedication?

As a church family, we take seriously our calling to help you along the journey of parenting. Based on the purposes of Family and Child Dedication and biblical commands, we ask that the parents or guardians seeking to dedicate their child and family are:



**Born-again believers who are seeking to live a life that is honoring to God and faithful to the commands that He has given us.**

**Members of Malvern Hill Baptist Church.**

**Individuals and families who have committed to raising their child(ren) within the church family of Malvern Hill Baptist Church.**

Because this is a commitment of the family (specifically the parents or guardians entrusted with this child) to raising the child to know and love God, those participating in the dedication must know and love God themselves. Furthermore, the dedication is also a commitment from our church family to loving, caring, and teaching the child as well as loving, caring, and equipping the parents to raise their child. Therefore, the parents or guardians need to be members of our church family who have committed themselves to our church. The child also needs to be an active part of our church family so that our church can uphold their commitment to help the child grow in knowledge and understanding of God.

## Can a Single Parent Participate in Family and Child Dedication?

Yes! A parent who meets the qualifications of being born-again, seeking to live a life that is honoring to God, and who is a member of Malvern Hill Baptist Church can participate in Family and Child Dedication. We recognize that single parents face a difficult road in parenting their children and we are committed to supporting single parents as they seek to provide a Christian foundation for their child's upbringing.



## How Do I Participate?

If you are already an active member of Malvern Hill Baptist Church, you can sign up online using the QR code, or you can contact the church office.

**PARENT CHILD  
DEDICATION  
REGISTRATION**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### EMAIL

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## What If I'm not a Member?

If you are not a member of Malvern Hill Baptist Church and you would like to take the next steps toward membership, sign up for our Next Steps Class or contact the church office to schedule a meeting to speak with our pastors.

## What If I'm not a Christian?

If you are not a believer, or if you have not yet been baptized, we would love to talk to you about taking that next step in a personal relationship with Christ. Contact us using the QR code for the Online Connection Card, or contact the church office to schedule a meeting to speak with our pastors.

**NEXT STEPS  
REGISTRATION**

**ONLINE  
CONNECTION  
CARD**