

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONY

- Come with an appropriately prepared heart.
- The father will be asked to take his role as the spiritual head of the family by praying for the child. This prayer of dedication should be brief. It should be an expression of thanksgiving for the life of the child and include a statement of the parent's commitment to raising the child according to God's Word & His ways.
- Plan ahead with your family and friends. Be sure to arrange for everyone to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service. We can reserve seating for them if we know in advance how many are coming.
- Decide who will accompany you to the platform. Grandparents, Godparents, siblings and extended family are invited to join the parents on the platform.
- Communicate with the church office. We request you arrange for a dedication service as soon as possible after the baby's birth. Please call the office with two optional dates. We will get back with you and confirm the date and gather some family information.



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## BABY DEDICATION

Dedicating  
Your  
Child  
to the  
Lord

Ron Laney

# BABY DEDICATION

## DEDICATION

God's people have always had the practice of bringing a child in dedication to the Lord. Dedication of a child is one of the beginning steps in "training up a child" and fulfilling God's plan for their life.

Dedicate = to set apart for worship or a particular use

## WHY WE DEDICATE CHILDREN

For the Parents, presenting a child in dedication is a promise made to God. A promise to raise their child by the pattern of Scripture. As the parents bring their child to the Lord, they are publicly expressing:

- Their personal faith in Christ & dedication to His Kingdom.
- Their recognition that the child belongs to God. As parents, they have been divinely assigned to raise this child to fulfill God's destiny for them.
- Their thanksgiving to God for their child.



## EXAMPLES OF BABY DEDICATION IN THE SCRIPTURES

There is ample evidence in Scripture to show the significance and sacredness of dedicating your child to the Lord.

### Presentation of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:21-22 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb...they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.

### Hannah & Samuel

1 Samuel 1:10-11 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

1 Samuel 1:26-28 And she said,, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.



## DEDICATION IS NOT BAPTISM

Acts 2:38 tells us to "repent...and be baptized." True repentance must precede the act of baptism. Since an infant or small child is unable to comprehend the full understanding of repentance, the act of baptism should be reserved until the child is old enough to make his/her own decision to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.

## DEDICATION DOES NOT SAVE THE CHILD

Baby dedication does not save the child from sin. The individual can only make this decision. Once the child reaches the age of accountability, he/she will have to make the decision to be a disciple of Christ on their own.

As we dedicate your baby to the Lord, we are asking God to:

- Protect the child
- Guide the child
- Bless the child
- Anoint the child & the parents
- Give wisdom to the parents to raise the child in "the fear & the admonition of the Lord"



Scriptures for Meditation:

Ephesians 6:4  
Psalms 127:3-5  
Proverbs 22:6