

encouragement to develop into the well-rounded Christian individual God intends him or her to be.

Dedication before God and the Church means that you realize that the Church should have a large part in the spiritual growth of your family. They should know you and your child so they can give prayer support, assist in Bible teaching, and provide opportunities, facilities and workers through which you and your child can enter into the fullness of maturity in Christ.

If it is your wish to follow the example of godly parents who throughout the ages presented their children to God in dedication; if you understand that your child is a gift from God and that he will hold you accountable for your child's spiritual growth in Christ; if you promise to pray for and with your child, to instruct your child in the things of God, to teach your child to read God's Word, and to do everything in your power to bring your child to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; if you believe it is a great privilege to offer a child back to the Creator, and wish to stand before God and the Church to dedicate your child to God, then the leadership at The People's Church would love to assist you in doing so. Please call the church office to schedule an appointment with Pastor Chris.

*Children are a gift  
from the Lord;  
they are a reward  
from him.*

Psalm 127:3



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THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH

*Committing My*



*Child to Christ*

PARENT-CHILD DEDICATION

## *Parent-Child Dedication*

The arrival of a new baby is a time of rejoicing for any family. The newness of life often brings a special freshness toward all of life. Often, during this time, parents want to do something in the church to celebrate their joy with others and to present their child to God for blessing.

## *Bringing Babies to the Lord*

The joy of Jesus' birth was shared with the people of God in the house of God. Like most Jewish parents in that day, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be presented to God. Long before this time godly parents presented their children to God. And to this day, parents bring their children to God, asking for his blessing.

Some Christian churches baptize infants by sprinkling them with water. In those churches the covenant of baptism is seen as being similar to the Old Testament covenant of circumcision. At The People's Church, we do not baptize babies. Instead, we dedicate babies to God. There are several reasons for this. First, there are no clear incidents of infant baptism in Scripture. Baptism is an evidence of Christian faith and always comes after a person has placed faith in Christ for salvation.

The People's Church encourages parent to dedicate their children to God during a public worship service. During this Parent-Child dedication service two beautiful and solemn promises are made before God and the church. First, the parents promise to care for their child as though it was God's child and raise that child to know, love and follow Christ. Second, the parents offer their child back to God as a gift to Him to be used for His purposes.

## *The Dedication*

Children are a gift from God. Like everything good in life, they come from God and they belong to him. Parents are caretakers of the children God has given them. Children are entrusted to our care to raise them for His glory. As parents think about their desire to dedicate their children to God, there are several questions they should ask themselves:



Since dedication of children is a Christian act of giving children to God for his glory, the most obvious question to ask is, "Are we Christians?" As a couple standing before God dedicating their child to him in a Christian church, their life should show the characteristics of Christ. Sometimes people bring their babies for dedication or baptism because it is "the thing to do." God is honored by hearts that genuinely desire to please him

without regard for what others think. Christian Dedication of babies is for Christian families.

The next question is "Are we serious about this dedication?" Parents should ask themselves if they really want to see their child serve God. Would they like to see their child become a preacher, a Christian businessman, a missionary, or a common laborer for Christ? Dedication of children to God means handing them over to him to do with as he pleases. An act of dedication is an act of faith in God, trusting him to call the children wisely and mercifully.

Another question that is appropriate to ask at the time of Christian Dedication is "Are we willing to oversee our child's Christian development?" Scripture tells us that we are to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)." This means many things, but fundamentally, the dedication of children to God is a promise to model a Christian lifestyle to the children worshipping with a church family regularly. In a sense, a Christian Dedication of a child is a dedication of the parents to be godly role models, to be like Christ.

## *Dedication: Your Desire*

As parents presenting your child to the Lord, you signify your own personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You show a desire to see God's will carried out in the life of your child. And you acknowledge your place as stewards of what really belongs to God – your child.

Dedication means that by word and example, you promise to teach your child to know and love God, to live a holy life and to value the good gifts God has given us. You promise to give your child every opportunity and