

A Biblical Practice

A precedent for the act of child dedication is found throughout Scripture. Hannah and Elkanah presented their son, Samuel, to the Lord. “*For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord.’ And he worshipped the Lord there.*” (1 Samuel 1:27-28)

Paul reminded Timothy of his spiritual heritage. “*For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother, Lois, and your mother, Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well...from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*” (2 Timothy 3: 15)

Mary and Joseph also presented Jesus back to God in an act of worship and dedication. “*When the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they (Joseph and Mary) brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord...And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.*” (Luke 2: 22, 40)

As a grown man, our Lord Jesus loved little children. “*And they began bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, ‘Permit the children to come to me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all.’ And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them.*” (Mark 10:13-16)

A Parental Pledge

The act of dedication is not a saving ordinance whereby your child’s soul is saved, rather it is a public expression of the fact that he/she belongs to God. God has given your child to you, and you are humbly returning the “gift” back to God. You, as parents, are “setting apart” your child for a life of Christian character.

In so doing, you assume the responsibility for your child’s spiritual development; bringing them up “*in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*” (Ephesians 6:4)

Most importantly, you as parents, dedicate yourselves to leading your child into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God is faithful! Paul teaches us that “*...He (Christ) is able to guard what (we) have entrusted*

to Him until that day.” (2 Timothy 1: 12) Be assured that when you give your child to Christ, you are placing him into the hands of infinite Love and Power. There is no safer and sweeter place in all the vast universe than in His holy Hands.

As you are faithful in fulfilling your spiritual responsibility to your child, he will be prepared to respond to Christ’s love personally as he sees it displayed in your home and in your relationship to God. “*...Train up a child in the way he should go. Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*” (Proverbs 22: 6)

In Presenting Your Child to the Lord, You Are...

- **Publicly affirming** your personal faith and trust in Christ.
- **Committing yourself** to pray daily for the physical, mental, social and spiritual welfare of your child.
- **Setting an example** of honoring the Lord’s Day by bringing your family to worship celebrations and Sunday school.
- **Modeling before your children** your love for God and His Word in your home. “*And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up.*” (Deuteronomy 6: 5-7)
- **Looking for that teaching moment** when you may present Christ to your child and have the joy of leading him into a personal relationship to Jesus Christ.

“Here I Am...What Are You Going To Do With Me?”

*Just ten little fingers and ten little toes, God’s blessing for you, as everyone knows;
And two big eyes with eternity there, A wee little heart, filled with love and to spare;
A mind filled with wonder, the future to face; Life’s joy and its sorrows, each in their place;
And a great big question for you to see, What are you going to do with me?*

With an awareness of your responsibility and privilege before God, **you dedicate your child.**

Knowing that children are a heritage of the Lord and in recognition of the goodness of God, with joy and thankfulness, **you dedicate your child.**

To Almighty God, to the Compassionate Christ, to the Faithful Holy Spirit; to Him who is worthy of our trust and service, **you dedicate your child.**

To the ultimate purpose that this little one may glorify God and enjoy Him forever; and to whatever calling in life the Sovereign God will give to him/her, **you dedicate your child.**

Application Request for the Dedication of Children

*We have read this pamphlet and desire to present our child to God.
We agree to be diligent in fulfilling our high calling as parents.*

Father's Name (please print)

Father's Signature

Mother's Maiden Name (please print)

Mother's Signature

Address

City/State/Zip

Home Phone

For the Certificate of Dedication

Child's Full Name (please print)

Child's Date of Birth (month/day/year)

City and State of Child's Birth

We prefer to present our child to the Lord on (date) _____
during the morning worship.

(Please turn into the church office.)

Application for Dedication of Children



11107 Wide Hollow Road
Yakima, Washington 98908
(509) 966-6322

Psalm 127:3

*"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord;
the fruit of the womb is a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
so are the children of one's youth."*