

Baby Dedication Information & Registration

(PLEASE READ COMPLETELY)

What is Baby Dedication? When a baby or young child is dedicated to the Lord two very important things take place that the parent needs to understand and be committed to.

1. First of all, baby dedication is a time when thanks are given to God for the child God has sent. During this time of thanks, the parent joins the pastor and congregation in prayer as the child is presented to the Lord. This prayer will also include asking God to bless the child and to bring the child to salvation as soon as possible (as soon as the child understands right from wrong and has reached the age of accountability). At this time, the pastor may pray for something special for the child's life, and that God will use the child in a special way in the future.
2. Secondly, **(PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)** *baby dedication is a time when the parent vows before God to do everything within their power to not only lead the child to Christ as soon as possible, but to raise the child in church with them, and to teach the child the ways of God by word and example in their home.* This time of dedication of *the parent* to Christ and to His church and word, is just as important as thanking God for the child and asking Him to bless them.

Since the baby dedication is inherently linked to the parents serving God, living for God, attending church, being a disciple of Christ, etc.; then the parents must ask themselves if they are Christians and presently doing that. If they are not, and/or are unwilling to do this, then the baby dedication should wait until they are. If the parents are living in a situation that is non-Scriptural (living together but not married), it should be corrected before the dedication.

At FCCC there are many times throughout the year a parent can dedicate their child to the Lord, as well as to make the needed vow and commitment to God themselves that is a part of baby dedication. If the parent is not committed to the above at this time, it is God's will for them to first commit themselves to the Lord, immediately get involved in church life and growing in the Lord, and make sure their own commitment is solid. Again, remember, the baby dedication is inherently linked to the parent serving and living for God faithfully and consistently themselves. They will be the ones who will impact their children for Christ most by their word and example.

IF ONLY ONE PARENT IS A CHRISTIAN OR YOU ARE A SINGLE PARENT - We know that at times, either the mother or the father may not be a Christian, attend church, or serve the Lord. Or, the parent is single. In this case, we ask that the Christian parent who desires to dedicate their child fully understand and commit to the above themselves prior to baby dedication.

Other Important Matters

- **Time:** During the Sunday morning worship service, when it is time for the parents to bring their babies or young children to the platform, the pastor will let them know. This normally takes place at the end of the praise and worship time. If this should change a church staff member will call you ahead of time to inform you. If you would like to wait in the nursery area during praise and worship for the ease of caring for your child(ren), please see the nursery director who will assist you.
- **Pictures:** If you would like someone to take photos of this event you may do so. You can advise them to move to the front row at the proper time to get a good shot. Please make them aware that they should not go up on the platform.
- **Dress:** Although it is not necessary for the men to wear suits and women to wear dresses, many choose to do so. Whether you dress up or dress casual, please dress modestly.
- **Others:** If you have other close relatives (grandparents, etc.), that you would like to have join you on the platform, you may do so. Remember, those who join you should also have the same commitment and desire spiritually that you do for your child(ren) as well as in their own life. The dedication is for them to make also.
- **Evangelism:** If you have relatives or friends who do not know the Lord, this can be a good time for you to invite them to church. As they are seated with the congregation and attend the service, they will hear the Gospel and we will believe with you that they will come to Christ and be saved.
- **Certificate:** Prior to baby dedication, please read this information thoroughly and fill out and turn in the attached form (page 3). Please detach pages 1 and 2, these pages are for you to keep and review. You will receive a baby dedication certificate signed by the pastor as a keepsake. You will be able to pick this up the following week at the Information Center.
- **Bible Information:** In Scripture there are various examples of parents dedicating their babies/children to the Lord. In Luke 2:22 we find Joseph and Mary bringing baby Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord. In 1 Samuel 1:27, 28 we find Hannah bringing her son Samuel and presenting him to the Lord.

Why don't we baptize babies in water? In the Bible, God has made it very clear who should be baptized in water – those who have truly repented of their sins and have put their faith and trust in Christ as Savior (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12; 20:21; Matthew 28:19; and others.). We know that it is impossible for a baby or young child to do this. At this stage they are in a state of grace since they do not know right from wrong and cannot repent of their sins and put their faith and trust in Christ. If a baby or young child should die in this state they would immediately go to heaven. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). Babies and young children are dedicated to the Lord in the Bible, never baptized. There is no example of a baby ever being baptized in the Bible.

Fill out and turn in to the office or Information Center

Name of parent(s) desiring to be a part of this dedication service:

_____ Father

_____ Mother

Phone Number(s): Home: _____ Cell: _____

Address: _____
Street Address

_____ City State Zip Code

Names of child(ren) to be dedicated: (Please give full name and date of birth.)

1. _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

2. _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

3. _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Where do you regularly attend church? _____

_____ Please check here if you are a single parent.

_____ Please check here if you're married, and you alone are a Christian who desires to take part in this dedication service.

Parent(s) vow to God:

I have read the Baby Dedication Information and understand it. I will, by the help of God, raise my child(ren) to know God, attend church regularly and keep them in church with me, and to the best of my ability, by my word and example, teach them about God and His ways.

Father's Signature

Mother's Signature