

# Child Dedication FAQ's

## 1. What should I expect during the dedication?

During the dedication service, parents express vows before God, their family, and the church declaring their desire to raise their child in a God-honoring way. Because parents are the main role models for their children, they play a primary role in the dedication service.

**Parents will be asked to affirm the following commitments:**

*-Do you dedicate yourself to glorify God and honor His Son?*

*-Do you dedicate yourself to model Christ-like attitudes and qualities that will bring joy and harmony to your family?*

*-Do you dedicate yourself to provide a foundation for your child to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?*

*-Do you dedicate yourself to parenting your child for the development of a heart submissive to God?*

## 2. What is the biblical purpose for child dedication?

**It is ancient.** It is an ancient tradition that predates the church. Old Testament parents took their firstborn in particular to a ceremony of consecration at the Temple. A New Testament example is in Luke chapter 2. Following the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the temple and dedicated him.

**It is symbolic.** The scriptures are full of metaphors and symbolic acts. This one recognizes that our children belong to God. They are a gift from God that we are entrusted with for a short time.

**It is a spiritual marker for parents.** Here dedication is more of a parent dedication than a child dedication as parents acknowledge their role as the primary spiritual leader in their children's lives.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Moses writes *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”*

Child dedication is a way for parents to publicly declare their commitment to dedicate their child to the Lord and raise them to understand how to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

### **3. Does CCC baptize infants?**

Child dedication at CCC does not involve baptism. In the Bible, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He welcomed them, prayed for them, and talked with them but he did not baptize them or tell anyone else to baptize them. We believe baptism is meant to take place at a time when an individual makes a personal decision to follow Christ and is old enough to repent of sin and confess Jesus publicly. Some examples of baptism occurred in the following scriptures. Acts 2:41, 8:12, and 10:47-48

Dedication is not a sacrament; nor does it impart grace or salvation to a child. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ as each person recognizes their sinfulness and receives forgiveness and eternal life through him and his work on the cross.

Rather than baptizing infants or children, CCC encourages Christian parents to dedicate their children. This is a ceremony in which parents formally call upon God's blessing for their child and publicly commit to raise him or her in accordance with scripture.

### **4. Do I need to be a member of CCC to have my child dedicated?**

You do not need to be a member of Christ Community Church to have your child dedicated. We do encourage parents to make sure they are calling CCC their home church. Why? In dedicating your child to God, you are stating that you are willing to partner with God and the church to raise your child in cooperation with God's intentions. To partner with any church, a parent would be wise to decide if he or she agrees with its beliefs and vision so they can fully participate in their partnership with the church.

### **5. At what age can a child take part in a dedication service?**

While CCC does not have a set age requirement for child dedication, the average age for a child to be dedicated is four to twelve months old, although many parents dedicate children much older than that, often for the following reasons:

-The parent(s) are new believers in Christ and their children were not dedicated when they were infants.

-The parent(s) are having a younger child dedicated and want to have their older child dedicated at the same time.

## **6. Can a single parent participate in a child dedication service?**

Yes! Child dedication signifies the commitment of parents (including single parents) to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Additionally, we highly encourage single parents to dedicate their child as they commit themselves to raise him or her without the presence or partnership of a spouse. The decision to dedicate a child is not dependent upon the beliefs of the ex-spouse; however we encourage single parents to discuss child dedication with their ex-spouse. As a church, CCC is committed to supporting single parents in providing a Christian foundation for their child's upbringing.

## **7. Can parent(s) assign godparents?**

Although the term "godparent" is not used at Christ Community, we do welcome parents to invite friends and family members committed to supporting them. The presence of these significant adults symbolizes their commitment to play a supportive role in the child's spiritual development. During the ceremony, only parents & child(ren) being dedicated are invited to be on the platform so we have enough space for each family.

## **8. What should we wear on the day of dedication?**

Parents and children are welcome to wear whatever makes you feel most comfortable. You will be on the platform, so please choose appropriate attire. Christening gowns are often family heirlooms with a significant history in the family, and it is fine for your child to wear one.