
What is Baby Dedication?

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby! Children are a blessing from the Lord. And if you are a Christian believer, you can be assured that God wants to bless your children with the gift of salvation.

“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” –Acts 2:39

Now perhaps you are wondering, should my child be baptized?

Baptism is something the Lord commands of every believer. It is an outward sign or seal of what has already happened to us inside when we first received Christ as Savior and Lord. It is also a public declaration of our commitment to follow Jesus and a powerful symbol of our dying to the “old self” and our rising as a “new creation” in Christ.

For these reasons, we believe that it was the Lord’s intention that baptism be reserved for those, young or old, who have come to a conscious understanding and acceptance of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Since an infant is not yet able to make such a life-changing decision, we continue the

traditional practice of many evangelical churches in “dedicating” our infants.

Although many churches do have a tradition of baptizing infants, the child is not participating or taking an act of faith, so that much of the original significance of baptism is lost. We feel this practice robs the believer of the power of the baptism experience once he or she comes to personal faith in Christ. Baptism is meant to be a tangible marker of our new life, something we can look back on and point to as an indisputable sign that we are new creatures in Christ.

What is “dedication”?

In the Gospel of Luke, we read that Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple to consecrate him to the Lord. There they made offerings, and a priest blessed and prayed for the child and parents.

In the same way, by dedicating your infant, you are offering back to the Lord the young life he has so lovingly given to you, and acknowledging before God and the church that this child belongs to Jesus. You are also affirming publicly your responsibility as Christian parents to raise and nurture the child in the hope of the gospel, with the expectation that he or she will one

day take the step to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord and be baptized.

What happens in baby dedication?

One of the pastors will call you and your immediate family forward and pray for you and the child with the laying on of hands. If you have chosen godparents for your child, they should also come forward to receive prayer.

How do I arrange to have my infant dedicated?

Call the church office.

Can I invite other family members and friends to the dedication?

Absolutely. We encourage you to invite anyone you wish. It’s a great opportunity to expose your friends and family members to the Experience Vineyard.

God bless you,

Ray Longwood
Pastor

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THE EXPERIENCE
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