

# Dedication of Infants and Children

As a child, Jesus was brought by Joseph and Mary to the house of the Lord. This was an act of dedication and recognition that He really belonged to God.

Throughout His ministry people brought children to Jesus and He placed His hands on each of them, and blessed them.

Christians are to recognize that everything we have belongs to God. The children that are born to our homes belong to Him as well.

This dedication is not the salvation of the child, but is a public expression of the fact that they belong to Him. This 'setting apart' is an act by the parents prayerfully declaring that this child belongs to God. The parents are to seek to do everything that is in their power, as God gives them wisdom, to see that the child grows up to respect and honor God, and to love and serve Jesus.

We encourage parents to dedicate their children to the Lord.

The dedication service is more than a ritual. It's a commitment of parents to honor the will and Word of God. As part of this dedication, you as parents are asked to:

1. Publicly affirm your personal faith in Christ, and renew your dedication to Him and His Word.
2. Pray daily for God's direction in your lives and the lives of your children.
3. Faithfully participate in Sunday Worship with your children.
4. Teach your children the truths of God's Word in your home.
5. Anticipate and seek to lead your children to a personal faith in Christ as soon as they are ready.
6. Recognize that your children belong to God and have been born to experience His love and serve Him.

## Teachings of Scriptures

### I – Jesus Christ's Example

"And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord."

Luke 2:22

### II – Jesus Christ's Teaching

"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

### III – The Example of Hannah and Samuel

"And she, greatly distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. And she made a vow and said, 'O Lord of Hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thy maidservant and remember me, and not forget Thy maidservant, but wilt give him to the Lord all the days of his, and a razor shall never come to his head.'"

7.

1 Samuel 1:10, 11

"And she said, 'Oh, my Lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying 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 1:26-28

## The Responsibility of Godly Parents

“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 6:6, 7

“And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”

Ephesians 6:4

If you would like to dedicate your children to God, please call the church office, 732-349-1550, ext. 201 and an application will be mailed or emailed to you.

## General Policies

Age Limit – 5 years and under.

Parents must be in regular attendance at The Church of Grace and Peace for a minimum of 3 months.

Dedications are scheduled periodically to occur on Sundays. Multi-families may be present. Private dedications are not available.

