

1.3 What's the Difference between Dedication & Baptism?

It is our Baptist understanding that the ordinance of baptism is for a believer. We therefore wait until a person is at an age where he or she can make a spiritual decision for themselves before we consider baptism (see our Baptism brochure for more information on this).

The Dedication Service is an act of thanksgiving and commitment on the part of parents to raise their child in a Godly manner. We see baptism to be an act of obedience and commitment on the part of the person concerned.

Dedicating your child is not an act of salvation on their behalf, but an acknowledgement that children are gifts from God and that you commit to raise them in a Godly way.

**WHAT
IS CHILD DEDICATION**



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1 WHAT IS CHILD DEDICATION?

The dedication of a child is a very significant event in the life of a family!

We believe children are a gift from the Lord. *Psalms 127: 3 -4 (NLT)* "Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him. Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands".

1.1 The Purpose of Child Dedication

The purpose of this event is to:

- Express your gratitude to God for the gift of your child.
- Make a Covenant with God to do your best to raise the child in the ways of Christ.
- Give the congregation the opportunity to support you in this great responsibility God has given you.
- Pray for you and your child.

1.2 The Biblical Basis for Dedication

While there is no direct command in the Bible instructing us to dedicate our children at a special ceremony, we see Jesus presented to the Lord in *Luke 2:22* so we follow that example given to us.

The Bible certainly does emphasize the special role a parent has in the spiritual development of a child:

"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". (Deuteronomy 6: 5-7)

The connection with the "Great Command" in the New Testament in *Mathew 22:37-38*, shows how critical this responsibility is.

Your decision to stand in front of a congregation of God's people in this Service of Dedication implies an acceptance of this responsibility and a commitment to carry it out, as God enables you.