

# Child Dedication



**“People were bringing little children to Jesus...  
He said to them, ‘Let the little children  
come to me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these...’  
And He took the children in His arms,  
placed His hands on them, and blessed them.”  
Mark 10:13-16**

**Trinity Community Church**

## WHAT IS CHILD DEDICATION?

Child dedication is truly a parent commitment service. It is a public declaration by you as parents to nurture your child in the way of truth and life found only in Jesus Christ. As a statement of purpose, you promise to dedicate yourselves to raising your child to love and honor God.

Dedicating your child acknowledges a sense of stewardship over the child God has placed in your care. As parents, you are committing yourselves to train up your child in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. This covenant implies your own belief in the Bible as the standard for living and the Church as a community of faith in which your child can experience the love of God and discover his or her place in His plan.



## **AS PART OF THIS DEDICATION, PARENTS ARE ASKED TO:**

1. Publicly affirm your personal faith in Christ and renew your dedication to Him and His Word.
2. Pray for God's direction in your lives and in the life of your child.
3. Faithfully participate in Christian community through worship and service as a family.
4. Teach and model for your child the truths of God's Word.
5. Anticipate and seek to lead your child to a personal faith in Christ as Savior and Lord.

## **HOW IS CHILD DEDICATION DIFFERENT FROM BAPTISM?**

Child dedication is not baptism. It is not a sacrament of any kind. The Bible describes baptism as an act that demonstrates one has personal faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. Although we encourage young children to believe and love Jesus and to recognize Him as Lord of their lives, we do not encourage children to be baptized until they have reached an age where they can confidently express their own faith in Christ and understand the meaning of baptism.

## DOES DEDICATING A CHILD ASSURE THEIR SALVATION?

Child dedication does not assure the salvation of your child. The Bible is clear that we are reconciled to God only through faith in the Person and finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

Furthermore, child dedication does not place a seal of protection over your child. We cannot depend upon an act of worship to protect our children from evil influences, physical illnesses, or tragedy. God gives us the grace to face life's difficulties as they come, but He never promises to keep us from all harm.



## CHILD DEDICATION IN THE BIBLE:

Child dedication, as it has been modeled in the Bible, is an opportunity for you as parents to honor the Word of God:

### **Hannah dedicated her long-awaited son, Samuel, 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..."

*1 Samuel 1:27-28*

### **Joseph and Mary dedicated Jesus as a baby.**

"When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord."

*Luke 2:22*

### **Jesus blessed the little children.**

"People were bringing little children to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them."

*Mark 10:13-16*

## THE COMMITMENT FROM TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH:

As a symbol of united commitment to the parents dedicating their child, the congregation will be asked to respond to the following:

"Do you willingly accept responsibility with these parents for the spiritual nurture and discipleship of their child? And do you commit yourselves to do everything you can, in formal roles of service and in informal interaction with this family, to support and encourage these parents in the fulfillment of the dedication vows they have just made?"

## WHO CAN DEDICATE A CHILD AT TRINITY?

Since child dedication is a commitment from both the parents and the church body, we believe that only members and regular attendees of Trinity Community Church should participate in this celebration. We believe there is also a unique responsibility and shared joy among members who have invested in the life and ministry of Trinity Community Church. Members are called to pray for, serve, and model a life of faith in Christ for our parents and children.



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