

INFANT/CHILD DEDICATION

Christians have a long-standing tradition of practicing what is commonly called "Infant/Child Dedication." The following is designed to answer the basic questions concerning this practice.

WHAT IS DEDICATION?

In publicly "dedicating" the child to the Lord, the parents and the local church are saying before God and others that they want to bring up their child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. It is actually more the dedication of the parents and the church family than the child.

WHY SHOULD PARENTS DEDICATE THEIR CHILD TO THE LORD?

Though the Scripture does not require that the parents publicly dedicate their children to the Lord, there is a biblical precedent for such a practice. Joseph and Mary's dedication of the infant Jesus is a great example of this. Luke records, ". . . They brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22). We practice infant dedication because of a biblical example, not a biblical command.

WHAT DOES DEDICATION DO FOR THE CHILD?

The Bible does not teach that anything happens to the child in the dedication process. It is simply a public statement by the parents that they wish to commit themselves to the Lord to do His will in rearing their child. And it is an invitation to the community of faith to support the parents in this endeavor.

Because of the biblical example and the significance to the parents, we encourage fathers and mothers to publicly dedicate their children to the Lord. They are simply saying, "We want to bring our child up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Due to the biblical priority of communicating the Gospel to the next generation, the leaders of Church of the Open Door welcome this opportunity to dedicate children to the Lord, as well as their families and the church community to partnering with the Lord in this sacred responsibility.