

Child Dedication at Eternal Church

Child dedication is a moment where a family dedicates themselves to the Lord and His plan for raising a child in a home surrendered to Him. This is not primarily about the child—it's about the parents. It's a commitment to follow Jesus and to lead your child toward Him in every part of life.

What This Means

When you dedicate your child, you are saying:

- *Our child is a gift from God*
- *Our home belongs to the Lord*
- *We will raise our child in the ways of Jesus*

Because parenting is more than providing and protecting, it is **discipleship**. Every moment: mealtimes, bedtimes, car rides, ordinary days —is an opportunity to point your child toward Christ (Deuteronomy 6:4–9).

A Gospel-Centered Commitment

Child dedication is not about control, it's about surrender.

It is not a guarantee of your child's salvation, future, or outcome. It is a declaration that your hope is not in what you can produce, but in what God has done in Christ.

We believe:

- Children are valued and loved by God
- Identity matters more than achievement
- The greatest success is a heart that knows and loves Jesus

What You Are Committing To

When you dedicate your child, you are committing to:

- **Follow Jesus personally**
- **Create a home shaped by the gospel**
- **Teach and model God's Word**
- **Depend on God's grace in your parenting**

You will not do this perfectly. You will fail. And in those moments, your child will see something powerful—the grace of God at work in your life.

You Are Not Alone

Parenting was never meant to be done in isolation. In child dedication, the church is also making a commitment:

To support you.

To walk with you.

To be a spiritual family to your child.

There are spiritual fathers and mothers in this church—people who will pray, invest, and help point your child to Jesus. This is a **family moment**, not just for your household, but for our whole church.

Who Can Dedicate a Child?

Child dedication is for parents or guardians who are:

- Personally following Jesus
- Seeking to align their lives with His ways
- Committed to raising their child in the Lord

If you are not there yet, we want you to know:

God has a plan for your life and your family.

We would love to walk with you in discipleship and help you take your next step toward Christ.

Child dedication may not be the right next step—but it could be a future one.

Next Step: Parent Workshop

Before participating in child dedication, parents attend a workshop where we explore:

- What it means to disciple your child
- How the gospel shapes parenting
- The role of the church in supporting your family

This is a space to be encouraged, equipped, and connected.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should we dedicate our child?

Child dedication is a public commitment to follow Jesus and raise your child to know and love Him. It's about surrendering your parenting to the Lord. Child dedication is not a guarantee of salvation. It's a commitment from parents to faithfully point their child to Jesus.

Scripture doesn't command child dedication, but we see parents entrusting their children to the Lord (1 Samuel 1; Luke 2) and a clear call to raise them in the faith (Deuteronomy 6; Ephesians 6).

Who should participate?

Parents or guardians who:

- are following Jesus
- are seeking to live in alignment with Him
- want to raise their child in the Lord

While the Bible doesn't describe the role of godparents, it consistently points to parents as the primary disciplers of their children and the church as a spiritual family. We believe the whole church plays a role in helping raise the next generation to know and love Jesus.

To help create a meaningful and focused moment, we ask that only parents or guardians stand on stage during the dedication. While we do not include godparents or additional family members on stage, we celebrate their important role in your child's life and invite them to participate from the congregation.

Do we have to be members?

No, but you should be actively involved in the community at Eternal church. This is a shared commitment with the church family.

What if only one parent is a believer?

A believing parent can still participate. Faithfulness matters, even if it's not shared yet.

What if we're not ready for child dedication?

Child dedication is first and foremost a commitment to follow Jesus in every area of your life as you lead your child in the ways of the Lord. If you are not ready to commit your own life to walking in the ways of the Lord, our desire is to walk with you toward a surrendered life in Christ—and revisit dedication in the future.

Child Dedication Vows

For the Family:

Do you recognize your child as a gift from God, entrusted to you by His grace?:

Do you commit yourselves today to follow Jesus—to surrender your lives to Him and to lead your home in a way that reflects His love and truth?

Do you believe that if your child has nothing else but God, they will be truly blessed—and that if they have everything else but God, they would be truly lost?

Do you commit to raise your child in the ways of the Lord—teaching them the gospel, modeling a life of faith, and pointing them to Jesus in the everyday rhythms of life?

Do you commit to depend not on your own strength, but on the grace of God—trusting Him in both your faithfulness and your failures?

For the Congregation:

Church, do you commit to come alongside these families—to pray for them, to encourage them, and to walk with them in love?

To live as a spiritual family—bearing one another's burdens, speaking truth in love, showing hospitality, and helping point this child to Jesus?