

Preparation for Parent Child Dedication

To dedicate something is to devote or set something apart for a specific purpose. It is to spend oneself, one's time, resources, efforts to a specific purpose.

JESUS' earthly parents were obedient to GOD's law to dedicate every firstborn male to the LORD. (Luke 2:21-24).

Why is Parent Child Dedication important today?

1. It is a commitment parents make to live godly lives and set godly examples for their children to follow so that future generations may be blessed. (Proverbs 20:7)
2. It is a commitment parents make to teach their children the Word of the LORD and train them to walk in the ways of the LORD. (Proverbs 22:6)
3. It is a commitment parents make to bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of the LORD. (Ephesians 6:4)
4. It is a commitment parents make to provide for the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of their children. (1 Timothy 5:8)
5. It is a commitment parents make to love their spouse with a godly love.
6. For single parents, it is a commitment to seek and live in Biblical community, asking GOD to provide support through godly relationships.
7. It is an opportunity for our church to commit to praying for and encouraging your family as you grow.

Children are a gift from GOD! The LORD has entrusted this child to your care.

Your mission as parents can be found in Deuteronomy 6: 4-9:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ 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. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

CONSIDER: How are you living out this passage in your home?

GOD has a lot to say about parenting!

Read through and meditate on the following passages. What does GOD's Word say about parenting?

Proverbs 20:7 _____

Proverbs 22:6 _____

Ephesians 6:4 _____

1 Timothy 5:8 _____

Psalms 127:3 _____

Proverbs 3:11, Hebrews 12:6-7 _____

1 Samuel 1:28 _____

Luke 2:22 _____

Recommended Complementary Resources:

All are available on RightNow Media, HCC's free gift to you. Please request log-in credentials at: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/hesperiacommunitychurch>

Confident Parenting by Jim Burns

- Free 5-session Study Guide with accompanying 10-20 minute videos.

Prepare to Parent (for 1st time parents, but good for all parents)

- Free downloadable workbook with 20 free videos, 3-6 minutes each in length.

Encouragement for Single Parents by Rob Rienow

- Slide show with 4-minute video.

All parents—please read and pray through the following commitments prior to the Parent-Child Dedication date.

Parent-Child Dedication Charge – commitment statements

Pastor: Proverbs 20:7 says, "Good people live right and God blesses the children who follow their example." Will you commit today to live a godly life yourself as an example to your children so that future generations may be blessed?

Parents: We will.

Pastor: Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go. Even when he is old he will not depart from it." Joel 1:3 says, "Tell your children about the word of the Lord so they will tell their children and their children will tell their children." Will you commit today to teach your child the Word of the Lord and train him/her to walk in the ways of the Lord?

Parents: We will.

Pastor: Ephesians 6:4 says, "Fathers (parents) do not provoke your children to anger but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Will you commit to do this?

Parents: We will.

Pastor: 1 Tim. 5:8 says that "a Christian who does not provide for his family is worse than an unbeliever." Will you commit to provide for the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of this child?

Parents: We will.

Pastor: The greatest gift a parent can give their child is to love their spouse. If you are standing here today with your spouse will you commit to love that spouse with a godly love and consider it a gift to your children?

Parents: We will.

Pastor: **Parents** repeat after me: We (I) dedicate this child to God. He(she) is yours, Lord. Watch over and protect him/her. Use him/her to change the world.

Pastor: Family members and friends in attendance, will you pray for these parents who have wonderful as well as challenging times in front of them? Will you lift them up in prayer, encourage them and help them be all God calls them to be?

Church: We will.

Pastor: Let us pray....