



FAQs for the Baby/Child Dedication



1. What is a baby/child dedication?

The baby/child dedication, while involving the child, is truly a parent commitment ceremony. During this time, the parents present their child to the Lord and dedicate themselves to raising him/her in His ways. They are reminded that the spiritual development of their child is a responsibility bestowed upon them and commanded in the Bible. It is a public commitment to love their child, pray for their child and guide their child towards a personal relationship with Christ.

2. Is a baby/child dedication the same as baptism?

Dedication is not baptism. It is not a sacrament of any kind. Since each person must make a choice to have a personal relationship with Jesus, dedication does not impart salvation on the child. Parents cannot decide their child's salvation. Only by a personal faith in Jesus can one be saved. When children are old enough to understand the concept of sin and responsibility for that sin, then they are ready to make the decision to accept Christ as their personal savior and be assured of eternal salvation. Parents must lay a foundation through teaching and example that will help their children make that decision at the right time.

3. How will I know what to expect?

There will always be an information meeting scheduled before any baby/child dedication which will be printed in the worship bulletin and included on the church website: www.cerritosbaptist.org At this meeting you will hear about what is entailed.

4. What is my part in the dedication service?

- a. You will write a letter to your child about one page double spaced or less to be read by you during the dedication. May include, but not limited to, the following:
 - Why you want to dedicate your child to the Lord
 - Your dreams for your child
 - The qualities you hope to nurture in your child
 - The things you will do so your child can know Jesus (e.g. regularly pray for/with him, attend church together, set a godly example, teach him how to love and serve others, etc.)
- b. Choose a life verse for your child
This is a nice way to close your letter. You might say “_____, this is the life verse we have chosen for you” and then read it. Or you might want to have someone like a grandparent or godparent read it so you could say “We have chosen a life verse for you and have asked _____ to read it for us.”
- c. Send us a digital photo of your child or you and your child to be shown on the screen during your child's dedication. This will help everyone see you!

5. What will happen during the dedication?

- Pastor Erik will call you forward; please sit close to the stage.
- He will introduce you, your baby/child and age and any others you have invited to share this special time
- You will read your letter (one parent or both)
- You, or someone you choose, will read the life verse
- Pastor Erik will close the dedication with prayer

6. What if I am unavailable on the date the baby/child dedication is scheduled but I would still like to dedicate my baby/child?

Send an email to Jo Ann at joann@cerritosbaptist.org with 3 dates that you can be present and she'll check for availability. Please keep in mind that you will need to attend an information meeting before any of the dates (1-3 weeks prior which can be worked out).