

## Questions and Answers

### ***What will happen during a child dedication service?***

Child Dedications usually happen during a normal Sunday morning worship service. Near the beginning of the service, we will invite families who are participating in dedications to come up on the platform.

The dedication service will consist of a charge to the parents, a charge to the congregation, and specific words of dedication and a prayer by the pastor. Although it is not required, we also ask fathers to briefly pray for the child(ren) they are dedicating, acknowledging them as a gift from God, recognizing their stewardship in raising children, and asking for God's help.

You will receive a certificate of dedication and a commemorative candle to burn in your house each year on the anniversary of the dedication as a reminder of your commitment.

### ***I am a single parent. May I still dedicate my child?***

Yes!

### ***Who should we invite to the dedication service? Do I need to select "God parents" for my child?***

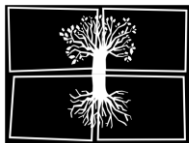
The dedication of your child is a special time, so be sure to invite your family, friends or small group members. There is no limit to the number of guests you may invite. We do not use the term "God parents" at Grace Community Church, but we certainly support your choice of significant individuals to offer support and encouragement.

### ***Is dedication the same as infant baptism or christening?***

Child dedication is different from infant baptism or christening. While these rites are significant for a variety of faiths, it is the practice of Grace Community Church to dedicate children. We believe that baptism should take place after a person has made a personal choice to follow Jesus Christ.

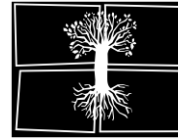
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*Grace Community Church exists to lead people to an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ so they may abound in fruitfulness to God's glory and their most profound joy.*



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## Child Dedication at Grace Community Church

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### Summary

Grace Community Church practices child dedication as an act of believing parents who are publicly declaring their desire to dedicate themselves to God and to raise their child, with God's help, in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

### Background

*"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward." Psalms 127:3*

*"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.... Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:1,4*

At Grace Community Church, we value and celebrate the family as an institution created by God for His glory. God designed the home as the primary engine of discipleship and spiritual instruction for children (Deut 6:4-9), and we want to encourage and support families in the task of child rearing.

Child dedication is a chance for parents to publicly acknowledge their desire to raise their children by modeling Godly principles with the desire that one day, their children will receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. We recognize that salvation only comes to a child through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not passed on to a child through dedication.

Public child dedication marks one moment in a lifetime of dedication, not only of your children, but also of your whole heart and home.

## Six Things to Understand about Dedicating Children

*Adapted from <http://theresurgence.com/2013/12/28/why-we-dedicate-our-children-to-the-lord>*

1. The practice of baby dedication is based on scriptural precedent, rooted in the Old Testament, in which Jesus was presented to the Lord in the Temple as an infant ([Luke 2:22-35](#)).
2. It is also based on and acknowledges God's blessing upon and concern and care for children ([Isa. 54:13](#); [Matt 18:1-5, 10](#); [19:13-15](#); [Luke 18:15-17](#); [Acts 2:39](#); [1 John 2:12-13](#)).
3. It is you, parents, who are doing the dedicating. It is a commitment you make in your heart before Jesus and agree together to live out in your home. The ceremony performed during a church service is simply a public acknowledgement of that commitment.
4. You acknowledge that your children are a gift given you by God ([Gen 33:5](#); [Psalm 127:3-5](#)). As such they are a blessing, a great privilege, and a source of joy ([Prov. 23:24-25](#))—and a lot of work too we know! Ultimately we recognize that they have been created by our Father in heaven, and as such belong to him, being entrusted to you as stewards to raise in Jesus ([Eph. 6:4](#), [Deut 6:7](#)).
5. You commit to live your lives as parents, by the grace of God, in such a way as to be a positive example as followers of Jesus. You pray that your children will find it easy to follow you as you follow Jesus, and that you will not become a stumbling block to your children's saving faith in Jesus.
6. Your church leadership and community (elders and church members) commits to support and equip you by the grace of God to fulfill your responsibility, and likewise to be good examples to your children.

## Requirements for Child Dedication

For parents considering child dedication, we have developed the following requirements. Note that these are for BOTH parents (except in the case of a single-parent household) and may be expressed as three fundamental commitments:

### Committed to Christ

- Demonstrate an active and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

### Committed to Godly Parenting

- Read this document and feel free to discuss any questions you may have with an elder/pastor at Grace

### Committed to Grace Community Church

Child dedication is for those who have determined that Grace is their church home and desire to raise their children in cooperation and mutual submission with the church body. Therefore, we ask that you:

- Be members of Grace Community Church or faithful regular attendees who desire to raise your child(ren) in a Godly, Christ-centered home.
- Request dedication and discuss any questions with an elder/pastor.

Once the above steps are completed, we will notify you of the date for your child dedication and you may invite family and friends.