

Child Dedication and Baptism

Child Dedication

Child dedication is really parent dedication; the parent is dedicating their child to the Lord. While there is no biblical mandate to dedicate children, there are several good reasons to do so. Parents have the primary responsibility for and influence over their child's lives and have received the directive to "train up a child in the way he should go." (Prov. 22:6). When a family dedicates a child, they declare that it is their intention to passionately pursue their relationship with God with all their heart, soul, and strength and to faithfully live out the teachings of Scripture. They commit to teach the Word of God diligently to their child (Deut. 6:4), as they provide a Christ-centered home where they will bring up their child in the wisdom, knowledge, and love of the Lord. At a child dedication, parents publicly acknowledge their desire to do these things, creating an environment of Christian community and accountability. It is a special family moment at OneLife church. When you dedicate your child, we invite you to include your family and friends for support and celebration.

If you would like to dedicate your child, please contact us at info@onelife.tv.

Child Baptism

Baptism is a big event in your child's spiritual walk and we take it very seriously.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20).

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward change, and a celebration of becoming part of the body of Christ. It is only for believers in Jesus Christ. It is an act of obedience to scripture after a conversion experience. Jesus is our example for baptism.

Children must be able to give a credible profession of their faith in Jesus Christ. For this reason, a child should be old enough to understand the gospel of Christ, repented of his or her sin, and have placed his or her faith and trust in Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matt. 19:14).

Bearing this in mind, it can be helpful to wait a while before baptizing a child if he or she is quite young at the time of salvation. We advise waiting until age 9 or 10. This helps to establish in the child's mind that the act of baptism is not what saves. Many young children think that baptism saves a person. Children see people being baptized, but they can't see a person's transformed heart. Children have a hard time with symbolism; they take everything literally. They tend to think that baptism washes away the person's sins. It is important that children realize that baptism doesn't make you a Christian, but you are baptized because you are a Christian.

As your child's parent, you have been given the biblical mandate to train up your child in the way of the Lord; therefore, you are the final authority on whether your child is ready for such a great decision. If you believe your child is ready to be baptized, please contact us at info@onelife.tv.