

## WHAT ABOUT GODPARENTS?

In some traditional church situations, the role of a godparent is to stand before God and speak to Him on behalf of the child. These individuals make statements of faith for the child, as if the child actually already had a faith in God.

At Church of the Rock, however, we believe that each person must come to their own personal living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, others do not speak on behalf of the child, but we wait for the child to come to their own personal relationship with Jesus. This relationship with Christ may take place some years later, but we still present the child to the Lord during this time of Child Dedication, asking that God would work within the heart and life of the child as she continues to grow and mature.

Though we do not encourage the practice of having godparents, we do encourage grandparents, family members and friends to stand by the child's parents, to pray for them, and to help with the raising of the child, the spiritual instruction of the child, and the protection of the child. Furthermore the church congregation is publicly asked to pray for these families on a regular basis.

## WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD WEAR?

Some parents like to have special clothing for their child, but there are no specific guidelines or clothing requirements.

## IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT?

No. Generally children are a few months old, but sometimes they can be older.

## HOW DO I KNOW WHEN MY CHILD IS READY TO MAKE JESUS THEIR FOREVER FRIEND?

Children usually are old enough to accept Jesus Christ into their lives as their Forever Friend when they can understand the difference between right and wrong. This age varies from child to child but is usually somewhere between the ages of 3 to 5 years.

Prior to the age at which a child is able to accept Jesus Christ as their Forever Friend, we understand that they are under a period of grace whereby God's love provides a certainty of salvation to the young child.

After the age when a child is aware of the difference between right and wrong, the child will stand on their own acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

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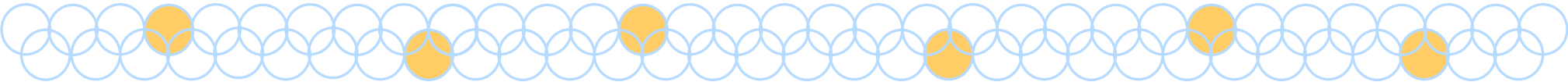
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# Child Dedication



## FAQ'S





**Child Dedication** is an opportunity for parents to express heartfelt thanks for the son or daughter God has given and to give that child back to the Lord for His help to raise and protect.

### **WHY SHOULD I DEDICATE MY CHILD?**

As Christians we believe that each child is the result of a man and a woman joining with the procreative power of God. Therefore, since God is involved in the creation of children, we also want to invite Him to be involved in raising, training and nurturing them.

You as parents have the honour of raising this child in the ways of the Lord. Although created by God, they have being given to you to love and to cherish.

*“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth.”* (Psalm 127:3–4)

Rightly understood, part of Child Dedication is **parental** dedication. You are pledging yourselves to obey the command of Paul:

*“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”* (Ephesians 6:4)

### **WHERE IS CHILD DEDICATION FOUND IN THE BIBLE?**

*“Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD.’ So they worshiped the LORD there.”* (1 Samuel 1:28)

*“Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.”* (Luke 2:22)

Paul reminded Timothy: *“...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”* (2 Timothy 3:15)

Jesus Himself said these words: *“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.”* (Mark 10:14)

### **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INFANT BAPTISM AND CHILD DEDICATION?**

Church of the Rock understands that baptism should be a personal commitment made by believers as they declare that they want to walk with the Lord Jesus for the rest of their lives. Because the individual needs to look ahead, count the cost, and then make a public confession, we do not baptize children and prefer to baptize individuals from the teenage years and up. By the time people are in their teens, they are able to make this choice with some understanding of the pressures of the world and the requirements of consistent Christian living.

### **CAN A SINGLE PARENT OR ONE PARENT LIVING FOR THE LORD STILL DEDICATE THEIR CHILD?**

Parenting is not an easy job. That is why, in the wisdom of God, children are ideally to be born within a loving husband and wife relationship. Unfortunately this is not always the case. At times one parent is left by themselves carrying the responsibilities of parenting or the weight of the child’s spiritual development.

If one parent has sole custody of the child, then that parent should confidently dedicate him before the Lord.

If there is only one parent who is taking the responsibility for the spiritual development of the child then that parent should as much as possible (and as much as is wise) work in cooperation with the other parent, even though the other parent may not be interested or may be opposed to spiritual things.

### **DO BOTH PARENTS NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE CHILD DEDICATION PROCESS?**

Yes, both parents should be involved. In the case where one parent is not a believer, our advice would be to seek the approval of the other parent before participating on your own. Most often the other parent will agree to come to the ceremony and hear the Gospel presented.

