

Albion Church of the Nazarene

Child Dedication

**Children Matter
to God and to us.
Matthew 19:13-14**

The Little Children and Jesus

Matthew 19:13 Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

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



Committing Your Child to God

What Does Child Dedication Mean?

Children are a gift from God. Like everything good in life, they come from God and they belong to him. Parents are caretakers of the children God has given them. Children are entrusted to our care to raise them for His glory. As parents think about their desire to dedicate their children to God, there are a couple of questions they should ask themselves:

Since dedication of children is a Christian act of giving children to God for his glory, the most obvious question to ask is, "Are we Christians?"

As a couple standing before God dedicating their child to him in a Christian church, their life should show the characteristics of Christ.

The next question is "Are we serious about this commitment?" Are we willing to oversee our child's Christian development?" Scripture tells us that we are to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)." This means many things, but basically, the dedication of children to God is a promise to model a Christian lifestyle to the children and worshipping with a church family regularly. In a sense, a Christian Dedication of a child is a dedication of the parents to be godly role models, to be like Christ.

What is Involved?

The dedication of your child will be scheduled when you are able to invite family and friends to be present to witness the ceremony. You will be called forward with your child, along with family or friends you want to be part of the ceremony. The pastor will ask you if you are willing to bring your child up in a Christian home and to watch over outside influences so that they will not be led away from the Christian faith. Your family, friends, and congregation will pledge to pray for your child and to do all that they can to help you in teaching your child to love and serve God. The pastor will then pray for you and your child



What Happens Spiritually?

Child dedication does not change the status of a child before God, since all children are in a state of innocence before God until they are old enough to know and choose right and wrong. As they mature they make their own choice in regard to their relationship to God.

Child dedication is a commitment on the part of the parents and the congregation to guide the child toward a Christian life.



What to do next...

If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please contact Pastor Wayne Hennen. He will be happy to answer any questions that you might have and will work with you to choose a date and plan a dedication service for your child. It is his desire that the church community might partner with you in helping your child to know how much God loves them and how they can love God in return.

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