

---

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Pastors' Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Dedication \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Dedication \_\_\_\_\_

---

It is our desire at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa for the parents of each child being dedicated to the Lord to have a biblical understanding of what "Baby Dedication" signifies. With this as our goal, we would like you to help us by answering a few brief questions that will be used to assist in preparing you and your child for dedication.

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

First

Middle

Last

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

2. If so, how long ago? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have you attended Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does having your baby dedicated mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa is pleased to provide a monthly baby dedication at the beginning of our morning services. The dedications are done on the last Sunday of the month and you may choose first service at 7:30am, second service at 9:30am or third service at 11:30am.

In order to have your child dedicated, we ask that you take a short class which is offered on the first Sunday of every month in the Family Room after third service. You are welcome to bring your children to the class.

- The class is approximately 30 minutes, and is taught by one of our pastors. It's a time for you to learn what it means to have your child dedicated and why we do it.
- You can schedule the dedication at the completion of the class or contact the Church Office.
- A certificate of dedication will be provided after the service in the Church Office.
- DVD's of the service and dedication are available for \$5 per DVD.

We as Christians have a tremendous responsibility given to us when the Lord blesses us with a child. By doing so He entrusts us with the responsibility of raising up that child in the way of the Lord and establishing early in his life a foundation built upon Jesus Christ. It is this tremendous responsibility that causes us to think of baby dedications as "family dedications." We feel that the whole family unit needs to be lifted up to the Lord so that each member will be able to keep his or her responsibility.

But first, what exactly is involved in "dedicating" your child to the Lord? As mentioned, children are a heritage **from the Lord**. He gives them to us to bless us and because of this we must be willing to give them back to Him. We, too, must be willing to totally submit our children to the will of our Father.

A perfect example of "dedicating" a child to the Lord is given to us in **1 Samuel 1:11, 26-28**. Hannah who had been barren (without child) for many years was weeping before the Lord because of her condition. As she was weeping she made a vow to God. "*Then she made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life..." (1 Samuel 1:11).*

God honored Hannah's request and gave her a son named Samuel. Hannah then, in keeping her vow, dedicated (or set apart) Samuel unto the Lord.

We see here a beautiful example of what our attitudes should be toward our children and their relationship to God. We are to do the most we can to "set apart" our children to God until the day that they can make their own choice (something all of us must do at one time or another). By dedicating your children to the Lord, you are making a vow to raise them in His ways and **not your own**. You are committing yourselves to this promise and must do all possible to keep it. The following is a list (though not exhaustive) of some of the things you, as parents, should do as part of keeping your vow.

**1. Pray Constantly for Your Child**

A parent's responsibility to pray for their child does not end at their dedication, but continues until the day the child commits his own life to the Lord. Job gives us an example of this in **Job 1:5**, "*So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, 'It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.' Thus Job did regularly.*"

**2. Instruct Your Child in the Way of the Lord**

We are taught in **Ephesians 6:4** to "*bring them (your children) up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*" And **Proverbs 22:6** adds "*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*" If we, while our children are young, instruct them in His ways, it is these sure ways that will develop into a life-long commitment.

**3. Be a Living Example to Your Children**

It does not do your child any good to instruct him in the way of the Lord if you yourself do not walk what you talk. Therefore, you must always be examining yourself and your witness to your children. In **Proverbs 20:7**, the Bible says, "*The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.*" The main reason for the blessed state of this man's children is that they have someone to look up to and use as an example to model their own behavior. We as parents must strive to be that example to our children even as Christ is our example.