



## **CHILD DEDICATION**

The dedication of children to our Lord Jesus Christ is a very special part of the family life of Bethany Chapel. While we are not following any explicit Scriptural command by this practice, we believe that dedication of children is allowable by God, honourable to God and encouraging to both parents and children.

### **What is dedication of children?**

Dedication of children actually has a two-fold focus. Parents dedicate their child to the care, service and glory of Jesus Christ, publicly affirming that they desire that their child know, love and serve Jesus Christ throughout his/her life. They acknowledge God's priority in their child's life and yield him/her to the sovereignty of the Lord. At the same time, the dedication ceremony is a public dedication by parents of themselves to be stewards of the life of their child. It is a commitment to honour Christ Jesus before their child, to direct him/her toward the Lord, and to obey Christ in the parenting process. It is a public acknowledgment of a role as steward over children rather than owner. It is a public commitment to raise their child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. In many ways, then, it is as much a dedication of parents as it is of children.

### **Who may participate?**

Any born-again believing parent(s) who desires to dedicate their/his/her child(ren) to the Lord, according to the above definition, may participate in this ceremony; and any formerly publicly undedicated child may be the object of the ceremony, regardless of age.

### **What distinguishes child dedication from infant baptism?**

Child dedication is not baptism. A covenant relationship between God and child is not claimed or conferred. It neither prefigures nor substitutes for believer's baptism. It is merely a ceremony of joyous dedication and

affirmation for parents who desire to raise their children in the nurture of the Lord and to see their children come to know and serve the Lord.

### **Are there any Scripture passages that support dedication of children?**

Romans 12:1-2

Ephesians 6:4

Luke 18:15-17

Psalm 145:4

3 John 4

Psalm 127

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Proverbs 24:3-4

2 John 1-4

### **How are children dedicated?**

Children are dedicated either privately or as part of a Sunday Morning Worship Celebration Service, depending on the circumstances. After parents turn in the attached form through the church office, they will be contacted by a pastor or elder with a response. Beyond the clarifications herein contained, the format of the actual child dedication will depend upon whether it is a private or public dedication, the desires of the parents, and the schedule of the dedication service.

If the dedication is to be during a Worship Celebration Service, the parents will be asked to come forward with their child(ren) and the pastor or elder will pray a dedicatory prayer for the child. If there is more than one dedication, prayers may be offered simultaneously, with a concluding prayer by one of the pastors or elders.

### **May children be dedicated in private services?**

Yes. Arrangements must be made personally with the pastor or elder of your choice.

### **How do I proceed from here?**

If you want to dedicate a child, please fill out the accompanying form and turn it in to the Bethany Chapel office as soon as possible. You will receive a call to finalize preparations for the dedications.

# REQUEST FOR A BETHANY CHAPEL CHILD DEDICATION

(Please fill out one form for each child to be dedicated  
and return it directly to the church office)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) OF PARENT(S): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BETHANY CHAPEL: 1. MEMBER(S) 2. REGULAR ATTENDER(S) 3. OTHER

*(Please circle the number for the appropriate description)*

CHILD'S FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please include full name as this is the name that will be on the Certificate)*

CHILD'S DATE of BIRTH (D/M/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

I/ We would like my/ our child to be dedicated because:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Any particular Scripture text you would like used in the dedication, if able?

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Any particular pastor or elder you would like to perform the dedication, if able?

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I/ We have accepted Jesus Christ as my/our personal Lord and Saviour and I/ we fully endorse this decision to dedicate my/our child.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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***God, the Bible, and we as a church, hold children with high regard, so thank you for desiring to have your child dedicated at Bethany Chapel!***