



CHILD DEDICATION

Dear Parents,

We are so excited you are interested in child dedication! It is our desire to make this process as simple as possible for you. If you have any questions during the process, please do not hesitate to call the church office at (661) 833-2800.

As a family of believers at LBC, we know it is pivotal to raise up the next generation of believers. For us, the first step is providing believing parents an opportunity to declare their intent to raise their child(ren) in the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are glad you have a desire to do this.

Here is the process for dedicating your child(ren) at LBC.

1. Read the attached document as a married couple. (Sections: Dedication, Parental Responsibilities, and Public Dedication Ceremony)
2. Both parents must fill out the application forms
3. Fill out the registration form.
4. Call the church office to make an appointment with Pastor Andy.
5. Arrange the time for the ceremony, which is during Sunday morning services.
6. Invite family and friends to the ceremony!
7. Dedicate your child(ren) at the ceremony.

This is an exciting time and it is our pleasure to be partnering with you in the discipleship of your child(ren).

God Bless,

LBC Leadership

Dedication

What it is-

At LBC we view parent/child dedication as a two-part event. The parental part is a dedication of the parents to raise their children according to biblical principles. The child dedication part is a “setting apart” of their child unto the Lord. A dedication is a formal event before the church body where parents pledge their desire to dedicate themselves to “bring them (children) up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4) for the glory of the Lord. The Bible does not specifically command that a formal ceremony like this be conducted, but there are examples of this type of dedication throughout scripture.

- Hannah gave her son Samuel “to the Lord” (1 Sam. 1:21-28).
- Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to be dedicated according to Moses’ male firstborn dedication requirements (Luke 2:22-24; Ex 13:12).

We are following a biblical model. We desire to promote godly parenting within our church family according to Malachi 2:15 and Ephesians 6:4. Raising children to be godly is the key principle contained in these verses.

What we believe this dedication is -

- Not a salvation issue
- Does not replace baptism
- A recognition and thankful response to God for his sovereignty and provision of the children He has given us to raise
- A commitment to parent your children in a God-oriented and godly manner, seeking and rejoicing in the church family’s role in the process

Anyone can father and mother a child, but it takes dedication, focus, resolve, and understanding, mixed with a lot of grace, to raise children to be fully committed followers of Jesus Christ. At LBC, we are deeply committed to helping parents in this God-ordained pursuit, but we would never want to take the parents’ place. God’s call to the church is for support through assisting parents by providing aid, training, and encouragement, living out LBC's vision to be “A Family of Believers Following Jesus Together.”

We are here to support you!

Parental Responsibilities

Six major parental responsibilities outlined in scripture:

1. Believing in, Following, and Loving Jesus (Jn 3:16-18; Rom 10:9-10 Deut 6:5-7)

For a parent to dedicate their child to the Lord, the parent must first be a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. Only genuine followers of Jesus can dedicate their children to Jesus. The Bible says that each of us needs to make a personal decision to believe that Jesus is the eternal Son of God and that he died for all our sins and literally rose from the dead three days later for the forgiveness of our sins, for eternal life, and for a relationship with God. Genuine belief in Christ includes a wholehearted commitment to Christ to obey him and to follow him for the rest of your life. If you have done this, then you are able to dedicate your child to the Lord.

2. Modeling Christ's Love (Mat 19:19; Eph 5:2; 1Thes 3:12; Jn 13:14)

The primary parental responsibility and greatest fulfillment of parenting is seeing faith in Christ embraced by our children. As God parents us, so we must parent our children. Family relationships, particularly, are intended to provide tangible and visible expressions of the love of God in His relationship with people.

3. Evangelizing and Discipling (Mat 28:18; Mk 8:34; Jn 8:31; Jn 13:34)

The third parental responsibility is that of evangelism and discipleship. Clearly, parents are to teach, evangelize, and model a growing relationship with the Lord to their kids. Indeed, the parents' role exceeds that of any church or school, authority, or other sphere of influence. No other can equal the influencing force of a mother and father in shaping their children. This principle works due to the initial child-like faith of children. They begin life in total trust of their parents, watching them (no matter how they live, either good or bad) and following their example and understanding love and other critical relationship dynamics based upon their experiences. Therefore, parents are always models to their children. In the early years, children often view their parents as God-like, seeing them as meeting their basic earthly needs for existence.

The common sayings, "Like father, like son," and "If you want to see how your wife will act, look at her mother," have a level of truth. God's promises are

available to parents who teach biblical concepts and model a right relationship with God and holy living. Parents need to know the scriptures and understand God's character well enough to train and impart His truth to their children.

4. Disciplining and Training (Prov. 22:6; Prov. 23:13; Prov. 29:5; Prov. 29:17)

The scriptures clearly teach that children are sinful from birth (Rom. 3:23; Psalm 51:5; Prov. 22:15). It is through consistent discipline and loving training that children will learn to walk rightly in obedience to God and their parents. Eli, who was a high priest of the Lord, failed to truly discipline his sons, and as a result each became corrupt and suffered consequences for their sin against the Lord (1 Sam 2:12-17, 22-36).

5. Demonstrating God's Order for the Home (Joel 1:3; 1Thes. 2:11; 1Tim 3:4; Col. 3:21)

Ephesians 5:21-6:4 gives parents God's solid pattern and framework for the family and the blueprint for successful godly homes. The husband is called to be the head of the home with the wife submitting to his leadership. This is all done in a oneness relationship under God. Children are called to view their father as the God-appointed leader of the home, and to respectfully obey both father and mother. Wives are to respect husbands. Fathers are to exemplify unconditional love to their wives and family as they lead everyone in spiritual growth. The marriage relationship must be given highest priority and is not to be broken just as Christ will not break His relationship with the church.

6. Remain Faithful (Deut. 4:9; Deut. 32:46; 1Tim 3:12)

Remember, God has no grandchildren. Everyone must individually come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is helpful that parents keep in mind that God does not necessarily ask them to be successful, but to be faithful to Him and His ways. Christian parents are responsible for the spiritual outcome of their children, but always within the scope of God's sovereignty. He guides the process. He orders the steps of man. It is parents' responsibility to model a godly life, continually seek after Christ, and encourage their children to do the same. It is man who waters, but God who causes the growth. (1Cor. 3:6-9, 16:13-14; 2Cor. 5:7; Rom. 5:1-5; James 1:3).

Public Dedication Ceremony

Purposes of a Formal Public Ceremony -

A dedication ceremony provides:

- 1) A public opportunity for parents to declare their inward commitment to raise their children according to biblical principles and their desire to have their child come to a saving knowledge of Christ
- 2) The accountability of a public vow
- 3) An opportunity to demonstrate the parents' intention of modeling God's love and grace to their children
- 4) A public recognition of the biblical truth that children are truly a gift from God
- 5) An opportunity for parents to publicly set apart their child to the Lord
- 6) An occasion for the church body to commit to supporting the goals of the family in dedicating their family

Making a public statement provides a focused reference point to draw from. Looking back, parents are reminded of their commitment, desire, and willingness to be held accountable to the church body. Therefore, a public declaration of their intent helps them carry on and finish the race set before them.

Example of Dedication Ceremony -

The pastor will lead the dedication by saying something like this:

At LBC we view parent/child dedication as a two-part event. The parental part is a dedication of the parents to raise their children according to biblical principles. The child dedication part is setting apart their child unto the Lord. A parent/child dedication is a formal event before the church body where parents pledge their desire to dedicate themselves to “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” for the glory of the Lord.

- *Luke 2 recounts the example of Joseph and Mary taking Jesus to the Temple for dedication and consecration to the Lord.*
- *You are doing something very similar to that event today. I commend you and remind you that God is always pleased with the faith and obedience of His people.*
- *Listen again to the heart of God in Malachi 2:15: “Has not the Lord made them one?” In flesh and spirit they are his, and why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring.” One glorious fulfillment of marriage is passing your faith in God on to your children.*

Parents, do you acknowledge that the child you hold is a blessing from God, entrusted to your physical and spiritual care? Do you accept the responsibility to provide a home environment in which Jesus Christ is loved and served?

Praise God!

Church family, please stand as an expression of your support.

Then the pastor will pray for each family and child.

Child Dedication Application

If you would like to dedicate your child to the Lord, please fill out the following application about your relationship with the Lord (Both parents must fill out a separate application form).

1. Your Name _____

2. I have read all the information above about dedicating my child to the Lord. Yes/No
(circle one)

3. If you were to die today would you know for certain that you would be invited into heaven? Yes/No/Maybe (circle one). I am 70%, 80%, 95%, 100% sure that I would be invited into heaven (circle one).

4. If you answered "Yes", why do you think you would be invited into heaven?

5. If you answered "No" or "Maybe" would you like to know how you can have 100% assurance of being invited into heaven when you die? _____

6. Have you been baptized after becoming a believer and follower of Christ? _____
If not, are you interested in being baptized? _____

7. Briefly write your story (testimony) of how you became a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. _____

(If you need more room, please write on the back)

8. Why would you like to dedicate your child to the Lord?

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Parent/Child Dedication Registration

If you would like to dedicate your child to the Lord during an upcoming church service, please complete the following and return it to the church office or email it to Julie Grimes at julie@laurelglen.org.

(put something in this area like an application)

Parent's Information:

Father: _____

Mother: _____

Home address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Father's cell: _____ Mother's cell: _____

Select service (circle one): Sunday 8:45am Sunday 10:30am

Child's Information:

Child's full name: _____

Date of birth: _____ City of birth: _____

Child's full name: _____

Date of birth: _____ City of birth: _____

Child's full name: _____

Date of birth: _____ City of birth: _____

We have read, understood, and discussed the Child Dedication Packet and the parental responsibilities and we agree with one another regarding parenting our child/children.

Father's Signature _____ Date _____

Mother's Signature _____ Date _____

Office Use Only

Pastor's Signature _____ Date _____

Dedication Ceremony Date: _____ [circle one] Sunday 8:45am Sunday 10:30am