



LAURELGLEN BIBLE CHURCH

CHILD DEDICATION

Dear Parents,

We are so excited that you are interested in child dedication. It is our hope to make this process as simple as possible for you. If you have any questions during the process please do not hesitate to call Julie Grimes or myself, Pastor Kent @ (661) 833-2800.

Here at Laurel Glen Bible, as a family of believers, we see that 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 excited that you have a desire to do this.

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

1. Read all of the attached document as a married couple (Sections: Dedication, Parental Responsibilities, and Public Dedication Ceremony)
2. Fill out the Registration form
3. Call the church office to make an appointment with a Pastor
4. Arrange the time for the ceremony (during Sunday morning services)
5. Invite family and friends to the ceremony
6. Dedicate your child(ren)

These are exciting times and it is our pleasure to be partnering with you in the discipleship of your child(ren). God bless!

In Christ,

Kent Schlecht (Pastor)

Dedication

What it is-

At LBC we view parent/child dedication as a two-part event. The parent 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 “Parent/Child 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” (Eph. 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 Mal. 2:15 and Eph. 6:4. Raising children to be godly is the key principle contained in these verses.

What we believe-

- 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 “A Family of Believers Following Jesus Together.”

We are here to support you!

Parental Responsibilities

Five major parental responsibilities outlined in Scripture.

1. Modeling Christ's Love (Mat 19:19; Eph 5:2; 1 Thes 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.

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

The second parental responsibility is that of evangelism and discipleship. Clearly, parents are to teach, evangelize, and model a growing relationship with the Lord. 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 follow their example and understand love and other critical relationship dynamics based upon their experiences. Therefore, parents are always a model to their children. In the early years children often view their parents as God-like, seeing them as meeting their basic earthy 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.

3. 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; Pro 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).

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

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

Remember God has no grandchildren. Everyone must individually come through personal faith 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 to carry on and finish the race set before them. (See Appendix 1 for example)

Parent/Child Dedication Registration

If you are interested in being a part of a Parent/Child Dedication Ceremony, please complete the following and return it to the receptionist at the front desk in the office.

Parent's Information:

Father: _____

Mother: _____

Home address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

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 as a couple the Child Dedication Packet and the ***Parental Responsibilities***. We are in agreement with one another on what our responsibilities are in parenting our child/children.

Father's Signature _____ Date _____

Mother's Signature _____ Date _____

Office Use Only Below

Pastor's Signature _____ Date _____

Dedication Ceremony Date: _____

Select Service (circle one): Sunday 8:45 AM Sunday 10:30 AM

APPENDIX 1

Parent Dedication Ceremony (Example)

At LBC we view parent/child dedication as a two-part event. The parent 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 “Parent/Child 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” (Eph. 6:4) 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 Mal. 2:15 “Has not [the LORD] made them one?” (One in marriage) 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 - stand as an expression of your support

Let's pray- (We will then pray for each child)