

CHILD DEDICATION

What is it?

Child Dedication is an opportunity for parents to publicly give thanks to God for their children and, together with the congregation, commit themselves to faithfully raise their children in the fear, knowledge, and joy of the Lord. Please consult the [Frequently-Asked Questions \(FAQ\) section](#) to learn more. Further questions? Contact [Becky Brooking](#).

REGISTER FOR CHILD DEDICATION

THE WORDS OF DEDICATION

“Together with your parents who love you dearly, and this congregation that cares about the outcome of your faith, I dedicate you to God, surrendering together with them all worldly claim upon your life in the hope that you will belong wholly to Jesus Christ forever.”

These words emphasize that as parents, we have two partners standing with us and supporting us as we seek to raise our children. First and foremost, God is with us. He is committed to declaring his glory from one generation to the next and fulfilling his unstoppable purposes to raise up worshipers in every generation. If God is for us and for our children, we have all we need. Secondly, “this congregation”—the people of College Park Church—is standing with us in this shared hope for our children. Their “Amen” in the dedication service means that they intend to support, encourage, pray for, and help us keep the promises we have made for the sake of our children.

CHILD DEDICATION PROMISES

1. Do you recognize these children as gifts of God and give heartfelt thanks for God's blessing?

Children are a gift—regardless of the timing and circumstances of their arrival. They are not an accident. They are a gift—no matter how they come. They are a gift even when they are not what we expect. They are a gift even when they come with infantile seizures, and chromosome irregularities, heart problems, deformities, blindness, tumors, brain damage, respiratory issues, etc. They are a gift when they are throwing up in the middle of the night and displaying their temper in the grocery store. It is an honor to be entrusted by God with these gifts.

2. Do you now dedicate your children to the Lord who gave them to you, surrendering all worldly claims upon their lives in the hope that they will belong wholly to Jesus Christ?

This promise expresses our submission to God and to his purposes for our children, in the hope that our children will belong wholly to Jesus Christ. Although children are a gift from God to us, he retains “ownership”—his sovereign right—to our children. More specifically, he retains the right: to give and to take on his timetable, to bring our children to faith in his way, on his schedule and according to his purpose, and to lead our children wherever he pleases.

3. Do you pledge as parents that, with God's fatherly help, you will bring up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, making every effort, with faithfulness, patience, and love, to build the Word of God, the character of Christ and the joy of the Lord into their lives?

The focus of this promise expresses our commitment to faithfully carry out our Deuteronomy 6:4 and Ephesians 6:7 responsibilities—emphasizing the aim and tone of this effort and acknowledging our limitations and ultimate dependence on God.

4. Do you promise to provide, through God's blessing, for the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of your children, looking to your own heavenly Father for the wisdom, love, and strength to serve them and not use them?

Here we promise to provide for our children in every way. This promise would be impossible to keep without the qualifiers “through God’s blessing” and “looking to your own heavenly Father.” This promise also reinforces a commitment to Christ-like, servant-hearted, parenting that recognizes children exist for God—for his glory—not for our personal satisfaction and pleasure.

CHILD DEDICATION PROMISES

5. Do you promise, God helping you, to make it your regular prayer that by God's grace your children will come to trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins and for the fulfillment of all his promises to them, even eternal life; and in this faith follow Jesus as Lord and obey his teachings.

This promise is our expression of hope that God will save our children and that they will passionately follow Jesus.

CHILD DEDICATION FAQ

What is Child Dedication?

The dedication of children is an act of faith in the presence of God and his people in which we solemnly and earnestly offer our children up to God for his wise and sovereign purposes in their lives. As parents, we offer ourselves as well, surrendering to the holy responsibility of being biblical parents and raising our children in the fear, knowledge, and joy of the Lord.

Does College Park baptize infants?

The Bible teaches that baptism is for those who are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins and for the fulfillment of all his promises including eternal life (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47–48). Therefore, we recommend children wait until they have at least turned eleven. Around that age, they are better able to understand and wholeheartedly embrace the gospel and resolve to passionately follow Jesus Christ.

Does the Bible teach that parents must dedicate their children?

It would be difficult to make a strong case for requiring the dedication of children in the church—just as it would be difficult to make a case for forbidding it. There are, however, biblical reasons why we encourage Christian parents to dedicate their children:

1. The person-forming work of God is a stunning display of God's creative power. Thus, it is fitting in the context of corporate worship to glorify him and praise him for his amazing work (Ps. 111:1-2; 145:10-12).
2. Child Dedication is an opportunity for parents and the church to publicly acknowledge that our children are gifts from God. It's also a chance to celebrate this blessing and give thanks to him for these gifts (Job 1:21; Rom. 11:34-36; Ps. 127:3).
3. Child Dedication is an act of surrender and submission to God and his will for our children, who were ultimately created for his glory and purpose (Isa. 43:6-7; 46:9-11; Eph.1:3-4).
4. Child Dedication is a declaration of parental and congregational commitment to be examples of godliness, raising our children in the fear, knowledge, and joy of the Lord (Deut. 6:6-7; 20-21; Eph. 6:4).
5. Child Dedication is a corporate appeal to God for his grace for the sake of our children, in the hope that they will be in Christ, holy and blameless before the Lord (Eph. 1:4) and belong wholly to him forever (2 Thess. 4:17).

CHILD DEDICATION FAQ

Are there any requirements for dedicating my child?

Christian parents who are members or regular attenders of College Park are welcome to dedicate their children. To help prepare for the dedication service, we ask parents to attend a three-hour Foundations of Parenting Seminar. This seminar is usually offered on a Saturday morning, one to three weeks prior to each dedication service. Registration for the Foundations of Parenting Seminar will be included in your Child Dedication registration. During this seminar, parents explore the meaning of dedication, the promises they will make, and the commitment of the church to join with parents in children's discipleship.

Do I need to be a member of College Park to dedicate my child?

Parents do not need to be members to dedicate their children, but they should consider College Park Church their "church home." This is rooted in our conviction that dedication reflects the partnership and mutual commitment of parents and the church to raise children in the fear, knowledge, and joy of the Lord.

At what age can my child be dedicated?

There is no age requirement for dedication, but many parents choose to dedicate their children within the first year or two of life. However, it is not uncommon for older children to be dedicated. Our staff is happy to discuss this with you if you have questions or need further clarification.

What should I expect at a Child Dedication Service?

Child dedications occur four times a year, usually during Sunday morning services. Each service has the following components:

1. Parents line up across the stage with their children while the presiding pastor gives a brief introduction to the congregation.
2. Parents will then respond to the dedication promises. Find a detailed explanation of the promises on [pp. 3-4](#).
3. Parents are introduced individually followed by these words of dedication, found on [p. 2](#).

After the last child is dedicated, friends and family are invited to gather around the families as a pastor concludes the service with a prayer of dedication.

Can a single parent participate in a dedication service?

Yes! Child dedication involves the commitment of parents (including single parents) to faithfully raise their child in the instruction, fear, and joy of the Lord. College Park Church is committed to supporting all parents (including single parents) in their efforts to fulfill their dedication promises.