

*"Children are a heritage from the Lord,
offspring a reward from Him" (Ps. 127:3).*

We, as Christians, have a tremendous responsibility given to us when the Lord blesses us with a child. In blessing us, He entrusts us with the privilege of raising up that child in the way of the Lord and establishing early in their life a foundation built upon Jesus Christ. It is this tremendous responsibility that causes us to think of child dedications as "Parent/Child Dedications." The real dedication is of the parents to whom God has entrusted the child. We feel that the parents (and even the whole family unit) needs to be lifted up to the Lord so that each member will be able to fulfill his or her responsibilities.

When God calls us into a right relationship with Him, He does not leave us as isolated Christians, but places us into His Body, the Church. As a local church, we feel it is important for Christians to make a commitment to a local body. This helps us as leaders to know who submits to the church's authority and covering, and it helps members to have a sense of belonging and accountability.

In this context, it is our policy that we dedicate only children of whom at least one parent is a member of East Hills Community Church. When you make covenant promises to God on behalf of your children, we as leadership also know that you're open to the teaching and accountability of East Hills.

This brochure is our attempt to explain what Parent/Child Dedication is and how it works here at East Hills. Please read it over carefully and prayerfully and if you desire to dedicate your child, then contact the church office and ask for a "Parent/Child Dedication Application."



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Parent/ Child Dedication



*Connecting people to God, each
other, and a purposeful life.*

Parent/Child Dedication

A Parent/Child Dedication is a ceremony in which believing parents, and sometimes entire families, make a commitment before the Lord to submit a child to God's will and to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways.

Christian parents who dedicate a child are making a promise to the Lord to do everything within their power to raise the child in a godly way, prayerfully until he or she can make a decision on his or her own to follow God. Parents who make this vow of commitment are instructed to raise the child in the ways of God, and not according to their own ways. Some of the responsibilities include teaching and training the child in God's Word, demonstrating an example of godliness, disciplining according to God's ways, and praying earnestly for the child.

The dedication of a child is more than a ritual. It's a commitment on the part of parents to raise their child to know and walk with the Lord. In no way is the child saved as a result of this dedication. He/She must decide later whether or not to walk with the Lord. The dedication is of benefit for the child only to the degree that the parent fulfills their promises and demonstrates the love and grace of God in their actions and words at home as the child grows.

Questions to Ask

1. Are we Christians?

Since dedication of children is a Christian act of giving children to God for His glory, this is an obvious question to ask. Christian dedication of children is for Christian families, it's not just a thing to do. As a couple stands before God and the church to dedicate their child, their life should show the characteristics of Christ. God is honored by hearts and lives that are genuine in following Him.



2. Are we serious about this dedication?

Do you really want to see your child grow up to know and serve God? An act of dedication is an act of faith in God, trusting Him to call your child into relationship with Him through grace and serve Him with their whole life.

3. Are we willing to oversee our child's Christian development?

Scripture tells us to train a child in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6). Dedication of children to God is a promise to model a Christian lifestyle to them. In a sense, a Parent/Child Dedication is a dedication of the parents to be godly role models. This includes (but is not limited to) worshipping at church regularly (Hebrews 10:23-24), praying for them (Job 1:5), instructing them (Ephesians 6:4), and being an example to them (Proverbs 20:7).

4. Are we, the parents, in agreement?

A pastor cannot really dedicate someone else's baby to God, because the baby does not belong to the pastor. The parents have been made caretakers of their child and only they can dedicate the child to God, and fulfill the responsibilities of such an act.

5. Are we members of East Hills?

Since you are going before the church and partnering with them, it is important you are under the teaching and accountability of the church as you raise your child.

A Biblical Look

(1 Samuel 1:26-28) "As surely as you live, my Lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord."

(Luke 2:22) "...Joseph and Mary took him (Jesus) to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord."

(Mark 10:14-16) "(Jesus) said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."

(Ephesians 6:4) "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

(Deuteronomy 6:5-7) "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."



What to Do

Before you are able to have your child dedicated you must complete the following:

- At least one parent must be a member of East Hills Community Church.
- A Parent/Child Dedication Application must be completed by BOTH parents (if applicable).
- The Application must be turned into the office.
- Upon receipt of the Application, you will be contacted to set up an appointment to meet with the Pastor. At that meeting, a date will be set up for your child's dedication.