



Office Use Only

Pastor: _____

Appt. Date: _____

Calvary Chapel Aurora Baby Dedications

PARENT/S: _____ DATE: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

DATE OF BIRTH & HOSPITAL NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

BEGIN by listening to the study, "God's Plan for Kids and Parents" (Ephesians 6:1-4) by Pastor Ed Taylor. Discuss them together as parents and jot down anything the Lord places upon your heart.

THEN go through this information, and when you finish, call the church to set up an appointment with one of our assistant pastors: 303-628-7200. (Bring your paperwork to your appointment)

Why Dedicate Babies?

Christian parents have been given a tremendous responsibility by the Lord in the nurturing of their children. Professionals tell us that a child's basic personality make-up is established by the age of six and some even sooner. God has thus given us the responsibility of raising our children in His ways from the very beginning, building a solid foundation of Jesus Christ into their lives. This responsibility involves both the mother and father and at the time of our baby dedications, we also like to dedicate the parents to the Lord for this purpose.

Psalm 127:3 states, *"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward."* Our children are given to us by the Lord for a 'heritage' or a blessing. Job, when he lost his children, said, *"The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."* (Job 1:21). Job understood that although God had given him these children, that He also decided when to take them back. We too must be willing to submit to the will of God and commit our children's lives to His care.

A good illustration of child dedication is found in 1 Samuel. In this chapter we meet Hannah, a woman who had not been able to have children for many years and went weeping before the Lord because of her condition. It was at this time that she made a vow unto the Lord, "Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, THEN I WILL GIVE HIM TO THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE..." (1 Samuel 1:11).

God honored her request with a son named Samuel. Hannah kept her vow to the Lord and dedicated (set apart) Samuel unto the Lord. Also, in Luke 2:22, we find Joseph and Mary coming to the Temple to present their child, Jesus, to the Lord. Here then are the criteria for us as parents. It is our obligation to dedicate or set apart our children unto God until the day that they are able to make that choice for themselves. Dedication here at Calvary Chapel Aurora is but one aspect of true dedication of our children to the Lord. Let us look at a few others.

1. **PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR YOUR CHILD**

Read Job 1:5 and you will see that Job continually prayed for his children even after they moved out of his house.

When do you believe this should begin? Explain. _____

2. INSTRUCT YOUR CHILD IN THE WAY OF THE LORD

Proverbs 22:6 tell us, *"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

What do you believe this training is telling your children or showing your children? Explain. _____

3. BE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF JESUS TO YOUR CHILDREN

It is useless to teach a child to do what you 'say and not what you 'do.' Proverbs 20:7 says, *"The righteous man leads a blameless life, blessed are his children after him."* We, as parents, must strive to be good models of Jesus in our homes.

In what ways can you be that good model in your home? _____

4. DISCIPLINE THE LORD'S WAY

The book of Proverbs has many verses dealing with discipline. Take a few moments to read through Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 29:15, 17. Any discipline you give to your children should be for *his* profit and not yours. A good book on the subject is Dare to Discipline by James Dobson.

What form of discipline do you plan to use? _____

Do you and your spouse agree on how to raise your children and what discipline to use? _____

These are but a few of the responsibilities given to Christian parents. As Christians, we realize that without the help of God's Spirit we could not fulfill them. **Therefore, here at Calvary Chapel Aurora, we will decline any request to dedicate a parent to the Lord who does not know Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and Lord.** In Proverbs 20:25, we are told that it is a snare for a man to make a vow and later find he cannot keep it. Read also Numbers 30:2, Deuteronomy 23:21-23, and Ecclesiastes 5:4. The Bible is very clear that those who make vows to the Lord should keep them. Read Acts 5:1-11 about Ananias and Sapphira and how severely God dealt with them because of a broken vow. We do not want to put anyone in that position. Therefore, we believe this is really an act of protection and not one of rejection.

Also, baby dedications are limited to children who are five years old and younger. By the age of five, once a child begins school and begins to reason for himself, the decision regarding their relationship with Jesus should be the child's with the parents' support and direction.

Prayerfully, you will understand our viewpoint about baby dedications. The dedication of your child and your family to God is something that is very serious and is not to be entered into lightly.

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

(Matthew 19:14)