

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Parent/Child Dedication at Quail Lakes Baptist Church

What is Child/Baby Dedication?

Dedication is a tradition of the church. It is not taught in the Bible as are the ordinances of baptism and communion. However, the church has developed this tradition to celebrate and pray for the children of the church family.

To “dedicate” means to set aside or to commit to a sacred purpose. The dedication ceremony is a committal of the child to God and the parents to raising that child in the ways of the Lord.

It is a time for parents, joined by the church family, to celebrate the life of the child, joyfully thanking God for this new addition to the family and the church family. It is also a time for parents to publicly commit themselves to raise their children in the nurture of the Lord and model a Christian lifestyle before them.

Additionally the dedication ceremony is a time of prayer that the child will one day make his or her own personal decision for faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Who may have their child dedicated at Quail Lakes Baptist Church?

Understanding that the dedication is primarily the parent’s public commitment to raise their children in the way of the Lord Jesus Christ, the following things will be true of the parents:

1. They should be committed Christians. They should personally believe and trust in the Gospel message of Jesus and have a sincere personal faith in this and their savior.
2. They should be involved in the church, either as committed members or as active attenders.
3. Parent(s) should be either married and faithful or single and celibate.
4. They should take seriously their responsibility to model a Christian Lifestyle and raise their children with a strong spiritual foundation. This will entail faithfully bringing their children to church and making the Christian faith a part of their daily family lifestyle. The following verses are relevant:

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 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. *NIV*

Ephesians 6:4

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. *NIV*

The implications of these principles are that the parents who dedicate their children at Quail Lakes Baptist Church will either be living in a committed heterosexual marriage relationship or if single they will be sexually celibate until the Lord brings a suitable future mate into their lives.

What is the process for preparing for Child/baby dedication?

The parents will be asked to attend a two session preparation class where they will meet with Children's Ministry staff, review the Parent/Child dedication preparatory material, and be oriented to the actual dedication service procedure.

Can I bring my child to the preparation class?

Yes

Is there a maximum age for child/baby dedication?

Once the child is able to make an informed decision for faith in Christ on their own we have come to the maximum age for dedication to take place. This typically is around age 8-9.