

BABY DEDICATION PASTORAL COACHING

The audio version of this coaching can be found at the link below.

<https://highpointchurch.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/BabyDedication.mp3>

Hi this is Pastor Gene from Highpoint. If your listening to this then your considering dedicating your child to the Lord. By now you should had read the introductory page on our website. If you have not read it yet, you can do that at www.highpointchurch.us/baby. That answers most of the basic questions parents have.

But, for the next few minutes I would like give you some spiritual coaching concerning a parents role in a baby dedication.

A baby dedication is a ceremony in which believing parent(s)—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 principles.

Christian parents are making a commitment to do everything within their power to raise that child in a godly way until they can make a decision on their own to follow Christ. Parents who make this commitment are instructed to raise the child in accordance with God's standards. Some of the responsibilities include:

- **Leadership:** Teaching, training, praying and setting standards for their child in accordance with God's Word. Like the leader in a race it's your job to set the spiritual pace for your children.
- **Modeling:** Demonstrating an example of godliness, as well as modeling grace and forgiveness in their lives and home.
- **Community:** Participating in a community of faith and exposing your child to community worship, discipleship, Christian service and community outreach. Good parents do this even when its not fun, convenient or easy.
- **Lastly it involves dependence:** Its your job to recognize your own limitations as a parent and to seek God's strength, grace and wisdom in raising a child.

The goal of Christian parenting is to raise our children in a way that perpetuates authentic faith. Right now you have lots of control. But a day is

coming when that control will be significantly downsized to influence. **So let me give you four quick pieces of advice to help you succeed in helping your kids choose to serve God for themselves.**

1. **Allow your kids to see Christ through the cracks in your life.** No one is perfect and psychologists say any given child can absorb the normal mistakes parents make. The important thing is for them to see you as a person who

- Admits their mistakes
- Takes personal responsibility
- Seeks forgiveness and
- Is quick to show grace and extend forgiveness to others.

The best way for them to learn grace is for you to seek and ask their forgiveness in the wake of mistakes.

2. **Model healthy relationships with authority figures in your life.**

Whether its teachers, police officers, pastors or civic leaders the Bible tells us that God will use leaders to bring good things into your children's lives and future. The quickest way to pass down an unteachable, graceless and offensive spirit is for your children to hear you criticizing, lacking respect and competing with leaders in your life. There are ways to have strong convictions without showing disrespect. Make that one of your strengths.

3. **Model service and sacrifice in the kingdom of God.** We live in a world that puts self front and center. The only way your kids will learn that they are part of something bigger than themselves is by seeing it modeled in your life. Let them see you serving others, being inconvenienced for the good of the kingdom and making sacrifices serving God and man.

4. **Trust God in the dark times.** I have raised four kids and let me tell you, this parenting thing can get scary in the tunnels. You will face problems you feel unqualified to overcome. But when their decisions disappoint you and their futures seem uncertain place your trust in God and lean upon His principles. The tunnel isn't the place to change trains. It's the place to hold on to the stable things of faith.

There will be a time when life will require your children to serve God with their own will and determination. These things will help give your kids the tools they need to make that choice.

So let me conclude by congratulating you for taking the time to learn as much as you can about dedicating your child. You have read the introductory material and you have exposed yourself to pastoral coaching.

If you feel a peace about dedicating your child, go the baby dedication website and fill out the online

After listening to this audio coaching you can take the next step by filling out the baby dedication request form online. Its at www.highpointchurch.us/baby and there is a link at the top of the page. God bless and good luck.

Highpoint Church

Baby Dedications

It's always exciting when a new child enters a family. There is no other season of life when a parent experiences excitement and fear all at the same time. Many parents desire to participate in a public ceremony that acknowledges their commitment as Christian parents and recognizes their need for God's help and guidance. Some Christian denominations baptize children while others dedicate them.

There are two reasons we do not baptize infants and young children at Highpoint Church. The first is that nowhere in the Bible do we find one example of infants and children being baptized. The second reason is that water baptism is an outward expression of an inward experience. The person being baptized is making a public confession of their faith that Christ has died for their sins and they have made a conscious decision to follow His teachings. While at Highpoint we do not set an age limit on when a person can be baptized, it is typically done after childhood when a person understands what salvation is and has made his/her own decision to follow Christ. In other words, baptism is a personal choice one makes with the full understanding of what they are doing and not the choice of others.

However, we do find several examples in the Bible of parents bringing their children to be prayed over and dedicated to the Lord by spiritual leadership. At Highpoint we call this a baby dedication.

1. **What is a baby dedication?** A baby dedication is a ceremony in which believing parent(s)—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 principles.

By dedicating a child Christian parents are making a commitment to God to do everything within their power to raise that child in a godly way until they can make a decision on their own to follow God. Parents who make this commitment are instructed to raise the child in accordance with God's standards. Some of the responsibilities include:

- **Leadership:** Teaching, training, praying and setting standards for their child in accordance with God's Word.
- **Modeling:** Demonstrating an example of godliness, as well as modeling grace and forgiveness in their lives and home.
- **Community:** Participating in a community of faith to expose their child to community worship, discipleship, Christian service and community outreach.
- **Dependence:** To seek God's strength, grace and wisdom in raising a child.

2. **Are baby dedications Biblical?** Yes, baby dedications have a Biblical precedent. The Bible teaches us that children are a gift from God saying, "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him" (Psalm 127:3 – NLT). As Christian parents we are called to recognize that children belong first and foremost to God. God has given us the awesome responsibility of caring for this gift, as well as the wonderful privilege of

enjoying them. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 commands parents to love God and to accept their responsibility to provide spiritual environment for their children to grow and develop in their own faith. We are told in 1 Samuel 1 that Hannah presented her son Samuel to the Lord. In Luke 2:22 we read that Mary and Joseph brought their baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem in order to present him before the Lord. Baby dedications are a modern way for Christian parents to make the same expression of faith.

3. **What happens during a baby dedication?** Dedications are scheduled during one of Highpoint's Sunday morning worship service and usually last about 5 minutes. Each dedication consists of the following:
 - **Pre-Service Meeting:** The Early Childhood Director will meet the parent (s) before service to brief them about how the dedication will be introduced and any logistics involved.
 - **Introduction:** Pastor Gene will introduce the family and ask them to join him on the platform while making a brief statement about the purpose of baby dedications.
 - **Pastoral Encouragement:** Pastor Gene will give the parent(s) a brief word of encouragement concerning how to raise their child in a Christ-centered home.
 - **Pastoral Prayer:** Pastor will then ask to hold the child (infants) or place his hand upon them (if older) while he prays a prayer of blessing upon them.
 - **Presentation:** After the prayer Pastor will present the child to the church and the Early Childhood Director will present the parent(s) with a dedication music globe with the child's name and dedication date engraved on the front.
 - **Conclusion:** The family will exit the stage while the service transitions into the next segment.
4. **How does a parent schedule a baby dedication?** Dedications are scheduled during the Sunday morning worship services at a time determined by the parent(s) and Highpoint's Early Childhood Director. The process begins by:
 - **Parent Request:** Interested parents should email Highpoint's Early Childhood Director expressing their interest and submitting three (3) possible Sundays that work with their schedule. Unfortunately, we can only entertain requests by the parent(s) and not extended family.
 - **Coordination:** Highpoint's Early Childhood Director will respond with information about the nature of baby dedications and then take the three dates to Highpoint's next staff meeting. The staff will evaluate the service calendar and select one of the dates that work with the existing service schedule.
 - **Scheduling:** Highpoint's Early Childhood Director will then confirm the day with the parent(s) and schedule the baby dedication.

Highpoint's Early Childhood Director can be contacted via email at: ec@highpointchurch.us.

Thank you!

The Highpoint Team

Highpoint Church
Baby Dedication Pastoral Charge
406 words 3 minutes

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Baby Dedications

If you would like to dedicate your child to the Lord, here are a few steps to not only inform you on how and why we do baby dedications, but also to start the process of scheduling a baby dedication during one of our services.

1. BEFORE submitting a request for baby dedication, print and read our Baby Dedication information page. A PDF of the info can be found at www.highpointchurch.us/pastoral-care

2. BEFORE submitting a request for baby dedication, listen to our short audio message to parents. The audio message is in the baby dedication section found www.highpointchurch.us/pastoral-care

3. Fill out the following information. This info will then be sent to our Early Childhood director who will contact you regarding the service and other details.

Your name *

Email address *

Phone Number *

Mobile

▼

Have you read the Baby Dedication information and explanation on the previous tab? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Have you listened to the short audio message to parents regarding Baby Dedication? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2021 Baby Dedication Dates: *

These are the specific days we will have baby dedications on in 2021.

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Please give us the second parents FIRST AND LAST name.

Please give us your son/daughters name that is being dedicated. *

Please give the date of birth of your son/daughter. *



Please give us the gender of your child. *

▼

Do you have another child you will be dedicating? *

▼

Name(s) of other children in your family being dedicated:

Please write out full name, birthdate and gender of other children being dedicated on this date:

Submit