

CHILD DEDICATION

Child dedication has a rich Biblical history, thus giving it special significance in the life and ministry of the church. For example, in the O.T. we go back to the time of Samuel's birth and find a very personal situation which illustrates the significance for the dedication of our children to the Lord {1 Samuel 1:1-2:10}. Samuel's mother Hannah perceived her son to be a gift from the Lord, and so she gave him back {dedicated him} to the Lord for His service {1 Sam. 1:27-28}

27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. 28 Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD." She left him there for the LORD.

In Jewish law a child was to be brought to the temple within a certain period of time to be presented to the Lord. Mary and Joseph are a good example of this. It is recorded for us in Luke's gospel.

22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Luke 2:22-24

Scripture is clear about how important children were to Jesus himself, and how he viewed children in relationship to the kingdom of God.

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven...10 " Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven Matthew 18:1-10

I have always been amazed by the fact the children have an angel {guardian?} and I assume they stay with us for life.

From these texts, we can see how important children are to God and why it is appropriate for us to dedicate our children to the Lord. If you desire to have your child dedicated, please contact the office either by phone, e-mail or via the communication card from your bulletin.

Pastor Brad