

The Service

Introductory words - relating to Jesus' parents bringing Him to be dedicated to God and a reminder of His words of "let the children come" to Him.

Pastoral Remarks to the family

Challenge to the family

Challenge to the congregation

Anointing of the child and prayer of blessing and dedication

Presentation of Dedication certificate, Bible and pastoral letter to the child

Other information:

Music: If the service outline for the day will allow for space for a special selection of music, the pastoral staff reserves the right to review and approve

Information sheet: Parents, please fill out and return to office.

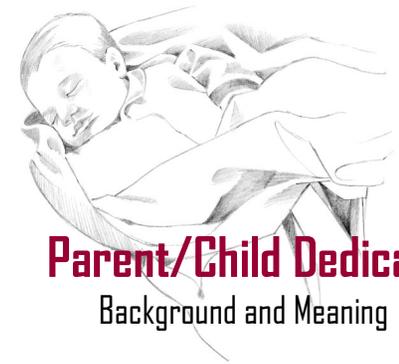


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Kendall Community Church of God

"Making Disciples of All Nations"



Parent/Child Dedication
Background and Meaning

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Background and Meaning:

Kendall Community Church of God holds to the beliefs and practices of the Church of God Reformation Movements with national offices in Anderson, IN. Historically, we have lifted up the value of parents bringing their children before the congregation to be dedicated to God. We do not practice infant baptism (Christening) in our tradition. It is not our practice or desire in making this choice to criticize or berate

other Christian traditions in which infant baptism (Christening) is practice. Our practice of parent/child dedication rises from several understandings:



1. An understanding of the grace of God in Jesus Christ that is offered to all to be accepted by faith for new life in Him.
2. Following the practice of the parents of our Lord who brought Him to the temple at an early age to be dedicated to God (Luke 2: 21-24)
3. Jesus example of taking the little children in his arms and blesses them (Mk. 10:13-16)
4. The meaning of the ordinance of Baptism in the life of an individual.

We do find it important to bring children before the Lord and congregation, with their parents, for a time a dedication. In our tradition (Anabaptist) we don't believe infants are able to understand the meaning and significance of baptism, so we only baptize believers who have passed the age of accountability (somewhere after 6 or 7 years of age - it is not an exact science) when they can make a decision to accept the grace of God for themselves in Jesus Christ. Baptism, then, is a public witness of the inward experience of the grace of God for salvation and new life. Believer baptism exemplifies one's dying with Christ to sin, being raised to new life by the same power that raised our Lord from the dead, as well as a witness to the believer's commitment to be one of Jesus' disciples all her/his life.

In some traditions, Christening is seen as a means of covering the child with God's grace, love and security, without which their eternal destiny is in question. In the Church of God, we believe that until a child is of the age of reason and accountability, God's grace envelopes their life and eternity until they can choose to accept it and receive that grace for themselves. In conjunction with child dedication (the idea of placing your child in an environment of Christian faith to be nurtured in the grace of God and the knowledge of Jesus Christ) we exemplify this belief and reserve baptism for believers..



As for Parent/Child Dedication, Christian nurture is the foundational concept for this practice. The service reflects the expectation that the child will mature within the nurturing context of the Christian church and family, in preparation for the time when he or she will confess personal faith in Christ and witness to that faith commitment in believer baptism. This is also a time of dedication and re-dedication for the church and parents/family to God - to live a lifestyle exemplary before the child and commit to raise her/him in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior. As an experience of the church and family, it is a time of celebration, and commitment to support children and parents as a community of faith.

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