

CHILD DEDICATION AT MVC

The dedication event is, at its heart, a commitment on the part of a Christian husband and wife to honor the Lord by raising their children in a godly home. As Christian parents, you are vowing that you are willing to:

- Publicly affirm your personal faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and your commitment to live in a way that honors Him as Lord
- Pray consistently for God's direction in your lives and in the lives of your children
- Faithfully participate in Sunday services, Kid's church, Sunday school and the other ministries at MVC to provide for strong family development
- Teach your children the ways of God at home
- Anticipate and seek to lead your children to a personal faith in Jesus Christ
- Recognize that your children belong to God and have been given to you as a gift to steward well

On the day of the Dedication you will be invited to come forward during the church service and you will be asked to affirm the above vows. Other family in attendance are welcome to join you at the front.

To move ahead please complete the registration form and place it in the offering or drop it off at the church office.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact: Pastor Dave Thiessen
dthiessen@mountainview.org



OUR PURPOSE

"To Glorify God"

OUR MISSION

"To present the Whole Gospel of Jesus Christ, to the Whole Person, throughout the Whole World."

SERVICES

Sundays at 9:00am & 10:30 am



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CHILD DEDICATION



A Life-Changing Place!



**MOUNTAIN VIEW
CHURCH**

CHILD DEDICATION IN SCRIPTURE

Nowhere in Scripture is it commanded or mandated that parents must formally dedicate their children to the Lord before the whole church community. Therefore, it is not a requirement at MVC. It is strictly a voluntary act on the part of a child's parents.

Furthermore, child dedication is not a requirement for the salvation of a child. It is imperative that parents understand that there is no relationship of any kind between the infant baptism conducted by other denominations and the child dedication that we administer at MVC. We do not believe that a child must be baptized in order to be saved; nor do we believe that baptism as an infant/child provides some kind of magical protection against evil. We believe the Bible affirms that all children are under the protective hand of God until the age of understanding, at which time they are then responsible for the spiritual choices they make.

At MVC we believe that salvation is a heart-matter wherein an individual acknowledges his/her sinful state and places his/her faith wholly in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for him/her on the cross. This is fundamentally what it means to be a Christian. Water baptism then follows salvation as witnessed by a public confession of faith. (If you, as a parent, have not yet become a Christian or been water baptized as an adult, we would encourage you to begin with these steps before pursuing child dedication).

Having established what child dedication is not, we can now proceed to examine the pattern of child dedication in Scripture and establish what child dedication actually means at MVC:

1. Jesus Christ's Example

"Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so His parents took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord." - Luke 2:22

2. Jesus Christ's Teaching

"One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so He could touch and bless them... He said to them, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.' Then He took the children in his arms and placed His hands on their heads and blessed them." - Mark 10:13-16

3. The Responsibility of Godly Parents

"And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." - Deuteronomy 6:6,7

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord." - Ephesians 6:4

Child dedication, then, is not for the salvation of a child. Rather, it is 1) a public act by which parents dedicate their child to the Lord; 2) an act of blessing by the church; and most importantly, 3) an act of commitment by the parents to do everything that is in their power, as God gives them wisdom, to ensure that their child grows up to respect and love Him.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to make an appointment with one of the pastors.

REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

The Dedication of children becomes an empty ritual or worse, an act of hypocrisy, if it is performed without regard for the spiritual health of the parents. It is foremost an act of dedication of the parents. It is a commitment to raise the child in a God-fearing home and, as such, it can only be made by parents that are themselves Christians and in good relationship with one another.

For this reason, parents may be interviewed prior to the dedication event by a member of the pastoral staff in order to confirm that they are, in fact, Christians. In the event that neither parent is found to have a saving relationship with Jesus, dedication will not be administered because neither parent can truthfully say that they will provide a God-fearing home for their child. Of course, unsaved parents will be invited to be born again without delay!

In the event that only one spouse is a believer, and given the permission of the unbelieving spouse, the church will move ahead with the dedication, relying on the promise of 1 Corinthians 7:14 "For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy."

In the event that a couple is not yet legally married, the church will not dedicate their child until such a time as the couple is legally married and can truthfully commit to the vows listed.

In the situation of a single, believing parent, the church will be happy to dedicate their child. We believe that as a church we have a special calling to assist single parents as they seek to raise their children in a godly fashion. (Where possible, formal permission from the other parent is encouraged.)