

# BABY DEDICATION

## Baby or Child Dedication - Application Form

It is our desire at Pathway Church to see parents and children fully devoted to following Christ. We believe that the Christian life is lived out in response to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. While we may not be able to persuade our children to follow in our footsteps, we can commit ourselves to faithfully serving our Lord and training our children in His ways. Ultimately, our children will have to decide for themselves whether they will follow Christ or not.

### What is baby dedication?

Baby Dedication may be better understood by using the term Parent Dedication. When you dedicate your child to God ***you are committing yourself to do your part*** in raising and nurturing your child and committing yourself to live as an example for that child to follow. This dedication ceremony is done publicly so that your church family, biological family, and friends can witness your commitment to God and support you in it.

### Is it Biblical?

We believe that parents who dedicate themselves to spiritually guide and nurture their children are acting in faith and obedience to scriptural principles. We do not believe that a *baby dedication ceremony* is required by God or that it has the power to save or convert your child. Here are some scripture references which we refer to as examples of Parents dedicating their children to God.

Luke 2:22

Mark 10:13-16

I Samuel 1:10-11 & I Samuel 1:26-28

Ephesians 6:1-4

### What are the requirements for Baby or Child Dedication at Pathway Church?

#### 1) Personal Commitment to Christ

Dedicating your child to God can be nothing more than a religious tradition if you yourself are not dedicated to pursuing your own relationship with Christ. We ask that parents first assess their own heart and commit to making any necessary steps or adjustments in their own life before initiating the dedication of a child. This does not mean that you have to be perfect, but it does mean that you are first committed to your own walk with God as the primary means of training and leading your child.

#### 2) Commitment to the Pathway Church Family

One of the strongest assets you will have to assist you in the challenging job of Godly parenting will be the community of faith you surround yourself with. If you are not committed to a local church you will be short-handed as you face the difficult task that lies ahead. When you dedicate your child to God before the church, the church commits to support and lovingly encourage your family as an extension of the family of God.

### Some of my children have been baptized as infants, can we just do that for this one?

We do not practice infant baptism at Pathway Church. We have decided to do infant dedication as we feel it better represents the teachings of scripture. If you have baptized other children; you have not done anything wrong and God will honor the faith with which you have pursued his leadership for your family.

Can we dedicate more than one child at a time? When is my child too old to be dedicated?

Yes. If you have more than one child and you would like to dedicate your family to God ... we are pleased to do that. You can dedicate your child(ren) at any age. This is not just for babies!

What will happen at the dedication?

Before the service begins, the minister will let you know when you will be coming up on the stage or platform. We typically have a 1 or 2 minute slideshow of your child which everyone can watch as you come up on the stage. You are welcome to bring up your entire family (this may include siblings, Godparents, Grandparents) but we may be limited by the space available on the stage. We would ask that the father (if present) hold the child as a symbol of his responsibility before God to protect and lead his family.

The minister will share a few words about baby / parent dedication and clarify the commitment that you and the church are making to one another before God. The minister will then pray a prayer of dedication over the parents, child, extended family, and church family – this prayer may also require a response from the congregation.

You will be given a letter from the church to your child explaining why they were dedicated and the hope that we have for their future. You will also receive a DVD at a later date containing the slideshow and the video footage from the dedication ceremony.

What do you need from me?

Parents Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Child #1 – Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female, Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Child #2 – Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female, Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Child #3 – Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female, Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

On what date would you like to dedicate your baby / child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide 1 alternate date

If you would like to pursue baby / child dedication - please print this form, fill out the details, and drop it off at the welcome table during our Sunday morning gathering OR email the completed form to [nathan@pathwaylife.com](mailto:nathan@pathwaylife.com)