

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Most parents who are concerned for the spiritual upbringing of their children will ask a question like this. The key to answering this is to consider what the Bible teaches about baptism and dedication.

CHILD DEDICATIONS

The dedication of infants and children is seen in both the Old Testament and New Testament. In the Old Testament, Hannah took her son Samuel to the Temple (1 Samuel 1:24-28). In the New Testament, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (Luke 2:22).

The significance of infant and child dedication is to publicly present this little life to God. In doing so, the parents express their thankfulness to God and request His guidance in raising the child. In presenting a child before God, the parents commit themselves to raise the child in the Christian way of life.

CHILD BAPTISMS

Baptism is different from dedication. Baptism is practiced throughout the New Testament. People were baptized to demonstrate publicly their belief in Jesus as personal Savior (Acts 2:41; 8:36-38). Everyone baptized in the New Testament was a believer. Baptism is outward expression of an inward reality.

The Bible does not give any minimum age for baptism; however, for a child to be baptized, they must be old enough to understand the meaning of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection for them and have responded to Christ personally.

WHAT'S THE PROCESS TO HAVE MY CHILD DEDICATED?

If you are interested in having your child dedicated at an upcoming Child Dedication Sunday, please follow the simple steps listed in the box below.

Once the Child Dedication Form is submitted, we will be able to answer any questions you may have, confirm your service hour preference, review all the information and give you instructions for how the dedication service will go.

1. Download the [Child Dedication Form](#).
2. Print + Complete the Form.
3. Return or Mail your Completed Form to the Children's Ministry Office
4. Schedule an Interview with Pastor Mark, our Children's Ministries Pastor.

CHILD BAPTISM + DEDICATIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE AGE FOR A CHILD TO BE BAPTIZED?

The age of the child is not as important as their ability to explain their salvation and demonstrate an understanding of Jesus' death as an act of substitution atonement (He died in our place). We aren't looking for the "right words" as much as their understanding of **why we need salvation** and **how we obtain salvation** - we are sinners, sin separates us from God and Jesus is the only way when we have faith in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, John 14:6, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-13, Acts 2:38

WHY DO YOU HOLD CLASSES?

Baptism is a big step in one's spiritual walk. We want to make sure the children understand why we get baptized. It's important that the children are able to express their faith in their own words, so we explain many of our "church words" as we go through the class. We slow down and try to be as interactive as possible, to make sure they can ask questions and share what they really believe.

HOW MANY SESSIONS DO THE CHILDREN NEED TO ATTEND?

We have two children's sessions. These sessions are usually held on two consecutive Sunday afternoons from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM.

WHAT IS COVERED DURING THE TWO SESSIONS?

Our sessions cover a Biblical view of baptism, examining why we are baptized, why we do full immersion, and the implications of baptism. The children will write their personal testimony in class – and we will have an opportunity to gauge their readiness for baptism. Some children may be asked to wait to be baptized.

Participating in the classes does not obligate your child to be baptized. You and your child could use the class material as the basis for home discussions about the lifestyle of following Jesus aside from making the decision to be baptized.

CLICK TO FIND THE NEXT
[CHILDREN'S BAPTISM SESSIONS](#)

DO I NEED TO ATTEND THE SESSIONS WITH MY CHILD?

You are highly encouraged to attend with your child. We encourage you to use our presentation as a springboard for further discussions at home.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS?

We cover a great deal of information during the two children's sessions. It is best that your child attends both sessions or waits until the next series.

WHAT IF MY CHILD MISSES A BAPTISM SESSION?

We want to be sure your child is ready for baptism and our classes help in that preparation. These sessions help us gauge your child's readiness. Baptism is not a requirement for salvation, but it is a serious step in one's spiritual life. We prefer that your child take part in both classes.

CAN MY CHILD ATTEND ADULT BAPTISM CLASSES WITH ME?

Your child may certainly attend the adult class, but we've found that they miss out on some of the basic concepts regarding salvation and baptism. The children's class covers these concepts in a format better suited to children.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO GIVE A PUBLIC TESTIMONY?

Yes. Baptism is a public proclamation of one's faith in Christ. There is no hurry to be baptized. It is a choice we make in being obedient to Jesus. There's no harm in waiting if your child isn't ready to share their testimony.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:
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