***Child Dedication***

*“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,*

*For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14*

**What child dedication is…**

Raising a child is both an awesome responsibility and a great gift from God. King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 22:6, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it.” Child dedication gives parents an opportunity to pray blessing over their children and to publicly express their commitment to teach their children to walk with God for the rest of his or her like. Here at New Life, we view child dedication as a merger of two important truths:

* ***Spiritual blessing* –** God created family, therefore we know it is vital to ask for God’s hand and favor over families and their children. We believe that parents are the greatest channel of blessing to their own children. As a church we seek to provide an atmosphere in which this blessing is fostered and released to our children.
* ***Parents commitment*** – Another part of child dedication is the parent’s commitment to provide a home environment that would encourage the healthy growth and development of a child’s character and spiritual life. “*You reproduce who you are.”*

**The Parents Prayer of Dedication…**

In the presence of God and these witnesses I do solemnly dedicate myself by God’s grace

* To raise my children in the way of the Lord.
* *Communicating spiritual/biblical truth*
* *Teaching how to worship*
* *Seeking to build character/ethics in your children*
* I will strive to set a godly example in my speech, actions and pursuit of God.
* *Cultivating a life that says to your child “follow me as I follow Christ”*
* *Providing a life-giving home environment by your patterns of speech and actions.*
* I will pray often for my children for their salvation and service to God.
* Praying God’s will for your child’s life direction
* Yielding to God’s will for your child’s life
* I will seek to teach them God’s word and faithfully bring them to church with me.
* *Valuing the presence of God in community and how it benefits your child*
* *Realizing that your child will need more than you as they grow up*

**Today, I dedicate this child to you O Lord. Thank you for the gift of this child.**

**Child Dedication**

What is Child Dedication?

Child Dedication is a public ceremony where parent(s) acknowledge that their child is a gift from God and that they are responsible to instruct the child in the Word of God, that they will guide the child in Christian living and they will lead the child to seek a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity for the family and friends as well as the entire congregation to publicly acknowledge their support of the parent in fulfilling this commitment.

At a child dedication the Pastor prays a prayer of blessing for each individual child asking for God’s blessing and for favor upon their life.

**I would Like To Have My Child Dedicated. What Do I Do?**

\*Please fill out the information for your child. Tear off the bottom half and place in the offering bag.

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**Parent’s Name(s):**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Ph# (\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Child’s First & Last Name:**

1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_ D/O/B: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_ D/O/B: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_ D/O/B: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_