

RHC Parent/Child Dedication

Biblical Foundation:

Deuteronomy 6:4-7: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Ephesians 6:1-4: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.' Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

What is a Parent/Child dedication?

One of the best ways to describe this is to explain what this is not. This isn't a baptism service and we are in no way imparting grace upon these children. To be honest, this really isn't a child dedication as much as it is a parent vowing to raise their child(ren) in the ways of the Lord. We believe that parents have been given the primary responsibility in raising their child(ren) in the ways of the Lord and this service gives parents an opportunity to publicly vow to raise their child(ren) this way and to seek the churches help in service and prayer to this end.

Who should participate?

Since parents will be vowing to raise their child(ren) in the ways of the Lord, it's important that parents actually understand the ways of the Lord. For this reason, we believe that only parents who have come to understand the ways of the Lord, who have come to understand what it means to have a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, should participate in this dedication service. If you are a parent but are unsure whether you have a personal relationship with Jesus, we'd love to share with you how you can have a personal relationship with Jesus and get you ready to participate.

To have your child dedicated at Redemption Hill:

- We ask parents to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- We ask parents to be sure their beliefs line up with RHC's statement of faith.
- We ask parents to be regular attenders of Sunday services.
- We ask parents who are living together and who are not married to take steps to acknowledge and surrender to God's plan for their relationship before participating in a child dedication service.

What will the service look like?

We will ask parents to slide out after the sermon and during the response song to go and get their children. After the response song we'll ask all participating parents to come forward and we'll proceed with the vow below. We'll present each child with a gift and then we'll pray and close the service out with a final chorus.

Parent/Child Dedication – Redemption Hill Church

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.’ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:1-4).

If it is your desire to raise your child in this regard, please make your agreement before God and our church by saying, “We/I do” to the following promises:

For the parent(s):

Do you recognize this day that your child is a gift of God’s favor and that you have received this child with heartfelt thanks to our gracious God for all that He has done? “We/I Do”

Do you promise to raise your child under the biblical mandates of parenting, asking the Holy Spirit for wisdom and strength to bring up your child in the discipline and admonition of the Lord, and to surround yourselves with other godly men and women in the church that will encourage, exhort and support you in your role as parent? “We/I Do”

If you are married, do you promise to maintain your marriage as the priority relationship in your home, properly displaying your role as husband or wife, and providing an example of Christ’s love and grace to your child? “We/I Do”

Do you promise to give your child every benefit of a godly home and the local church so that your child will be taught the Scriptures and be provided the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus? “We/I Do”

Do you promise to offer your child for service in Christ’s church for whatever may please the Lord, praying continually that God would bless your child so that God himself might be brought glory through your child’s life? “We/I Do”

For the church:

Do you promise to come alongside these parents and to provide support and encouragement to them as they fulfill these promises? “We Do”