



## In Summary...



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“Kids View exists to empower ALL kids to know the unconditional love of Jesus. For life!”

This dedication is not a Baptism. It is not a sacrament. It does not impart salvation to the child. Child dedication is viewed as a confirmation between the parents, the church and any other covenant partners to love and raise the child in a Godly way with a goal that one day, your child will make the decision in his/her life to accept Christ as his/her personal Savior.

*We do ask that all families participating in our Child Dedication Service first attend our Child Dedication class.*

***Bible quotations for scriptural references are from the New International Version of the Bible.***

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The Difference  
Between Child  
Dedication and  
Baptism

## What is the difference between child dedication and baptism?



This is a question many parents have regarding their newborn infant or young child. Since families of Mountainview come from various religious and cultural backgrounds, this explanation has been prepared. We hope that this is helpful in clarifying what we believe and why. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### Child Dedication at Mountainview

We see that the dedication of children is taught in the Bible. As a baby, Jesus was dedicated by his parents (Luke 2:22). *...Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ...* We also see that Jesus bestowed 'blessings of the children.' (Mark 10:16)

**At Mountainview, this service is actually a parent commitment service.** It represents a purposeful decision and choice of parents to offer their child to the Lord and to dedicate themselves to raising their child toward a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe that an important first step of this commitment is for the parents to first dedicate themselves to a meaningful relationship with Christ. (Joshua 24:15) *But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*

## Parent Commitment/Child Dedication Purpose

1. **To give parents of young children an opportunity to publicly recognize God's gift of a child to them.** (Psalms 127:3) *Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him.*
2. **Parents' declaration of their intent to raise their child in a Christian environment.** (Deuteronomy 6:5-7) *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children.*

### 3. A challenge to parents to religiously guide and educate their child.

(Ephesians 6:4)

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instructions of the Lord.*



4. **A challenge for parents and covenant partners to lay a foundation of learning about God.** As parents, we cannot 'decide' our child's salvation for them. We believe that each person must make their own decision about their relationship with Christ. When a child becomes old enough to understand the concept of sin and their responsibility for that sin before God, they are then ready to make a decision about salvation. Parents can, however, lay a foundation by their teaching and example, which will help a child be ready to make that important decision of accepting God's grace later in life.

For information about Kids View Ministry please go to our website at: [www.mountainviewfamily.org](http://www.mountainviewfamily.org)

## Who is to be Baptized?

We support that all believers are to be baptized. (Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12, Acts 8:13) Only faith in Christ makes you a believer. The only requirements for baptism are an understanding of sin and our responsibility for that sin before God, and a belief in Jesus Christ and the grace and salvation that His death offered. We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

## What is Baptism?

We believe it is a symbol of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:3, Colossians 2:12) It is a symbol of our new life as a Christian, (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4) — **an outer** symbol that you are a believer.

## Baptism does not save you.

**We believe that only your faith in Christ saves you.** (Ephesians 2:9) *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.*

## In conclusion...

This dedication is not a Baptism. It is not a sacrament. It does not impart salvation to the child. Child dedication is viewed as a confirmation between the parents, the church and any other covenant partners to love and raise the child in a Godly way with a goal that one day, your child will make the decision in his/her life to accept Christ as his/her personal Savior.