

BABY DEDICATION

Congratulations on your decision to participate in a Baby Dedication Ceremony.

Like every parent since the dawn of time, we want what is best for our baby. Parents have high hopes and big dreams that our children will carry on the best of our values and surpass our accomplishments. This dedication is part of those aspirations. At Chico 1st we want to support and nurture your child's spiritual development in our community.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

All people, including our children, are born with a sinful nature that excludes them from heaven. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)

Our children like all people everywhere, must ultimately make their own decision about a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. (John 3:36, 1:12, 2 Peter 3:9)

Parents must have a desire and take seriously their responsibility to raise their child (ren) with a clear example and understanding of what a relationship with God through Jesus Christ looks like. (Eph. 6:4, Prov. 2:26, Heb. 10:23-24)

It is important to understand that the dedication ceremony carries no impact on the child's spiritual standing in the church or for eternity in God's eyes.

PARENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Parents must have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, typically referred to as born again or saved.

Parents must be personally willing to oversee their child's spiritual development, not delegating their responsibility to the local church.

Parents must both be in agreement on the dedication of their child

Parents must involve their children in the spiritual development opportunities provided to them at church.

Parents must fill out and submit the Baby Dedication Application form.

BASIC MEANING

An outward commitment or declaration of the parents' intent to raise the child as deliberately as possible in Christian instruction.

An external symbol of a hoped for internal decision one day.

A public prayer to invite God's favor to assist or allow that child to make his or her own faith decision.

A public request for the rest of the church to hold the family accountable to their commitment.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The Order of Service will include:

Reading of Scripture

Family Processional

Declaration of Intent from Parents

Parents will be asked to affirm

They are the primary spiritual influence

Pray for the child daily

Set a godly example

Discipline the child to a Godly standard

Nurture the child in Scripture

Lead the child to Christ

Extended family may be asked to come to the front and place hands on parents as a symbol of generational support.

Church asked to stand as they agree to hold parents accountable

Prayer of Dedication

Presentation of Certificates

Note: There will not be any water involved in the dedication.

WHAT TO WEAR

We enjoy a fairly casual church. You will be part of a public ceremony in front of friends and family. Dress as you might for a family photo.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Please provide a digital photo of your child for use during the service. Please email the photo to secretary@chico1st.com

Pictures can be taken throughout the ceremony and Pastor will be available for pictures with the family following service if so desired.

It is OK if your baby cries, that is what they do and everyone understands.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Genesis 17:9-14- Circumcision was the outward symbol of the dedication of a child to Gods favor and family.

Luke 18:15-16 – People brought little children to Jesus. While the disciples rebuked the parents, Jesus welcomed the children. This can be considered the NT expression of a baby dedication

1 Samuel 1:28 – Hannah promised to deliver her child into Gods service.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 – importance of and command from God to teach our children the ways of Scripture

Proverbs 22:6 – command to raise children up in the way they should go

Matthew 19:14 – Jesus' example of wanting children to be close to Him.

