

## **Baby Dedication Information for Beulah Baptist Church**

### **What is Baby Dedication?**

A baby dedication is a time when thanks are given to God for the child God has sent. During this time of thanks, the parent(s) joins the pastor, officers, and congregation in prayer as the child is presented to the Lord. This prayer will also include asking God to bless the child and to bring the child to salvation as soon as possible (as soon as the child understands right from wrong and has reached the age of accountability). At this time, the pastor may pray for something special for the child's life, and that God will use the child in a special way in the future.

Further, a baby dedication is a time when the parent(s) vows before God to do everything within their power to not only lead the child to Christ as soon as possible, but to raise the child in church with them, and to teach the child the ways of God by word and example in their home. This time of dedication of the parent to Christ and to His church and word, is just as important as thanking God for the child and asking Him to bless them. Since the baby dedication is inherently linked to the parents serving God, living for God, attending church, being a disciple of Christ, etc.; then the parents must ask themselves if they are Christians and presently doing that. If they are not, and/or are unwilling to do this, then the baby dedication should wait until they are.

If only one parent is a Christian or you are a single parent, we ask that the Christian parent who desires to dedicate their child fully understand and commit to the above themselves prior to baby dedication.

### **Other Important Matters**

- Time: During the Sunday morning worship service, when it is time for the parents to bring their baby or children to the front, someone from the AdminTeam will let them know. This normally takes place after the collection of offering. If this should change an AdminTeam member will notify ahead of time to inform you.

- Pictures: If you would like someone to take photos of this event you may do so. You can advise them to move to the front row at the proper time to get a good shot.

- Dress: Although it is not necessary for the men to wear suits and women to wear dresses, many choose to do so. Whether you dress up or dress casually, please dress modestly.

- Others: If you have other close relatives (grandparents, etc.), that you would like to have join you up front, you may do so. Remember, those who join you should also have the same commitment and desire spiritually that you do for your child(ren) as well as in their own life. The dedication is for them to make also.

- Evangelism: If you have relatives or friends who do not know the Lord, this can be a

good time for you to invite them to church. As they are seated with the congregation and attend the service, they will hear the Gospel and we will believe with you that they will come to Christ and be saved.

- Biblical Basis: In Scripture there are various examples of parents dedicating their children to the Lord. In Luke 2:22 we find Joseph and Mary bringing baby Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord. In 1 Samuel 1:27, 28 we find Hannah bringing her son Samuel and presenting him to the Lord.

**Why don't we baptize babies in water?** In the Bible, God has made it very clear who should be baptized in water – those who have truly repented of their sins and have put their faith and trust in Christ as Savior (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12; 20:21; Matthew 28:19; and others). We know that it is impossible for a baby or young child to do this. At this stage they are in a state of grace since they do not know right from wrong and cannot repent of their sins and put their faith and trust in Christ. If a baby or young child should die in this state they would immediately go to heaven. 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). Babies and young children are dedicated to the Lord in the Bible, never baptized. There is no example of a baby ever being baptized in the Bible.