

Baby Dedication Ceremony

Here is a walk-through of what you can expect in the baby dedication ceremony:

- Use this page of our website to sign up for a specific baby dedication date including a time slot. We do the baby dedications AFTER each of our worship services on a given Sunday.
- You stay after the service, and your friends and family would stay after as well. About 10 minutes after the worship service dismisses, I will gather you at the altar at the front of the church.
- Mom and Dad will stand inside the altar railing with your baby. Your friends and relatives will sit on the first two rows right in front of where you are.
- I will ask you the baby dedication questions. So here are the questions:
 1. Do you repent of your sins? Do you confess that you are a sinner in need of a Savior and that you are a parent in need of a Lord? (You answer: "I do.")
 2. Do you confess Jesus Christ as that Savior and put your whole trust in His grace both for yourselves and for your children?
 3. Do you surrender your child into God's care and God's plans?
 4. Will you nurture your child in Christ's church? Will you bring your child to church? Will you teach your child about Jesus and the Bible? Will you live the Christ-following life in front of your child so that one day your child will want to come to faith in Christ themselves?
- We are asking you to please take these questions seriously. If you don't believe Jesus Christ is your Savior, then let's not do this yet. Let's resolve that question first. Set up an appointment with one of our pastors to talk about that. Let's have integrity with this ceremony.
- By the way, sometimes a family will have godparents. You don't have to have godparents, but if you do, the godparents will stand up there with you and I will ask them: Will you commit to be a Christian influence on (child's name) and encourage him/her to lead a Christian life, and raise him/her if his/her parents are not available?
- After that I will pray over your child. Typically, we have 2 or 3 or 4 families doing this together. So, I will pray one family and one baby at a time. I pray the dedication prayer over your child, and it's not just a one sentence prayer. I take time to pray a nice soaking prayer over your child.
- Now, at this point, I am following one of two traditions with your child: Baby dedication without water or infant baptism with water. As a church, we are willing to engage in either tradition as long as everyone is clear that water never saved anyone. It's faith in Jesus Christ that saves a person.
- So, with baby dedication without water, we are praying the dedication prayer over the child and saving water for when that child receives Christ into their life and gets baptized.
- With infant baptism, we pray the dedication prayer and then apply water to the baby as an expression of our prayer... picturing ahead of time... a future day when that child will receive Christ into their life.
- So, we pray the dedication prayer over each child.
- And then I turn to all of the family members and friends who are present in the seats asking them if THEY will play a role as well by praying for you guys and helping model for your child the Christ-following life.
- Then we close out our service, and I give you a baby dedication certificate and a small gift from the church.
- THAT is what baby dedications look like at Grace Fellowship, and I would be honored to conduct a ceremony and prayer dedicating your child to the Lord!!!