



## Baby Dedication at Kindred

### Why do we have baby dedications?

Throughout Scripture we see the high value that God places on the family. One example of this is found in Mark 10:13–14:

*“And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.” - Mark 10:13–14 (ESV)*

As Jesus has a special love for children, Kindred Community Church wants to demonstrate Christ’s love to the children in our church. Scripture also speaks to the role that parents play in raising their children. Our role as the church is to encourage parents as they raise their children biblically in the discipline and instruction of the Lord:

*“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” - Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)*

One of the ways we encourage parents in their duty and seek to demonstrate the love of Christ to the children and families of our church is through baby dedication. While the dedication of children is not a biblical mandate, it is a time for our church to partner with families by praying for the parents and their children.

In our baby dedications parents commit themselves publicly to the responsibility of nurturing their children in the fear of the Lord. Our church also makes a commitment to come alongside the parents and reinforce what the parents are already teaching their children in the home.

### What it is...

- Baby dedication is a time for parents to publicly ask for accountability from their church family as they raise their child(ren) according to God’s Word.
- Baby dedication is a time for our church family to make a commitment to come alongside parents and encourage them to raise their child(ren) according to God’s Word.
- Baby dedication is a time for the church to pray for parents and to pray for the salvation of the child(ren) being dedicated.
- Baby dedication is a practice that encourages the biblical principle of fellowship in the local body and parental responsibility in raising children.
- Baby dedication is for parents who are members of Kindred Community Church.

- Baby dedication is for the parents of children who are generally 24-months-old or younger.
- Baby dedication is for both biological children and adopted children.

**What it is not...**

- Baby dedication is not a replacement for infant baptism. Kindred Community Church does not teach infant baptism but teaches that baptism is only for believers (by immersion after conversion).
- Baby dedication does not place your child into a covenant community.
- Baby dedication does not bestow any type of special blessing upon your child. There is no spiritual transaction that happens during baby dedication.
- Baby dedication does not affirm or predict the salvation of your child. Salvation is solely the work of God and we are called to pray for that salvation but cannot through any ceremony (such as baby dedication) impart that salvation.