

Parent/Child Dedication FAQs:

What is Parent/Child Dedication?

Parent/Child dedication is a way for parents to publicly express their commitment to love and lead their child(ren) in such a way that they would know and follow Jesus (1 Samuel 1:27-28; Luke 2:21-24). It is similar to the vows you make to your spouse on your wedding day - a public declaration of the promises you make to another.

Because you make this public declaration before a local church, you are inviting the leadership of that church to hold you accountable to loving and leading your child(ren) in a Godly way. This means that your pastor(s) will come alongside you to encourage and equip you to be a Godly parent by asking you to be part of our Sunday morning children's ministry and providing you with parenting resources.

Do I have to be a member of Crossroads to participate?

No. Although, a big part of raising your child(ren) so they would know and follow Jesus, involves being connected to a local church. It is far more beneficial for you and your family to become member because membership expresses your willingness to be accountable to the leadership and guidance of the church. If you don't connect with Crossroads, we highly encourage you to connect to another Gospel-centered, Bible-teaching, community and missional focused church (see <http://www.hcbc.com/leadership/church-planting/locations> for a list of some of these churches).

Why should I participate? Why should I not?

The Bible is very clear that parents are the chief-influencers in their child(ren)s lives (Deuteronomy 6:4-7). In other words, YOU have the biggest impact on the child(ren) that God gave you and He has ordained you to point them to Him. So, any parent who is serious about raising their child(ren) to know and follow Jesus ought to participate.

You ought not to participate if you don't actually intend to raise your child(ren) to know and love Jesus. This would be meaningless and a mockery to God's desire for you as a parent and for your child(ren). If you don't view this as your purpose for parenting, then we encourage you to wait in participating and meet with a pastor so you can ask questions. We want you to be honest with yourself and help you see the greatness of Jesus for yourself and your family. Please call us at (512) 491-0496 to schedule a meeting.

What if I am a single parent or legal guardian?

God cares deeply for widows and orphans (James 1:27), so know that as a single parent or legal guardian, you are loved by God more than you can imagine and He will give you the grace you need to raise your child(ren). By trusting in Jesus, you are adopted by God into His family, the Church, a family for any and all to be part of regardless of background (Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 1:4-8). So, as a single parent or legal guardian, we invite you to participate and become involved in your adoptive family, the church.

How is Parent/Child Dedication different than baptism?

Baptism is a public demonstration of an individual's faith in Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of their sin and the giving of a new heart/life (Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12). Parent/Child Dedication does not grant forgiveness of sin or a new life for the child.

Baptism is an outward act (dunked in water) expressing an inward reality (raised from death to life through Jesus by the Spirit). Parent/Child Dedication is merely an outward act expressing a parent's intention for their child(ren).

Baptism is commanded by Scripture (Matthew 28:19-20a). Parent/Child Dedication is not.

What is the next step for me and my child(ren)?

The best thing you can do as a parent is to remain connected to a Gospel-centered church. At Crossroads, you can do this through our community groups, where you'll get to know more parents and more about God and the Bible. You would be wise to attend Sunday morning gatherings at Crossroads as often as you can. Crossroads Kids is our environment for child(ren) birth-5th grade. Here, your kids interact with other kids, hear the Bible taught in a fun way, and you as a parent are given practical resources for leading your kids in Bible and theology at home throughout the week.

Our prayer is that by God's grace, the next step for your child(ren) is that they would one day express an understanding of and complete trust in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is NOT something you or anyone else can manipulate your child(ren) into believing, but only in God's grace does the Spirit of God responsible for moving us to a point of faith (1 Corinthians 2:9-14). All that is required of us is to be faithful in telling others about the Good News of Jesus, and persevere in praying that God would open their hearts and minds to believing.

Once your child(ren) express a confident faith response in the Gospel, they should be baptized. We'd love to celebrate this with you, so contact us when that happens.