



## **Baby Dedication: Information for Parents & Children**

It is the solemn obligation of parents (Gk *pater*, plural *pateres*, can mean “fathers” or “father and mother”) to give their children the instruction and correction that belong to a Christian upbringing. Parents should be examples of Christian life and conduct, caring more for their children’s salvation than for their jobs, professions, and ministry in the church or social standing (cf. Ps 127:3).

- (1) According to Paul’s word in Eph 6:4 and Col 3:21, as well as God’s instruction in many OT passages (see Gen 18:19, Dt 6:7, Ps 78:5, Pr 1-4, 6:20), it is the responsibility of parents to give their children the upbringing that prepares them for lives pleasing to God. It is the family, not the church or church school, that is primarily responsible for the Biblical and spiritual training of the children. Church and church school can only assist and affirm parental training.
- (2) The very core of Christian nurture is this: The heart of the father must be turned to the heart of the child in order to bring the heart of the child to the heart of the Savior (see Lk 1:17).
- (3) In bringing up their children, parents should show no favoritism, encourage as well as correct, punish only defiance or intentional wrongdoing, and dedicate their lives in love to their children with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (Col 3:12-14,21)
- (4) Here are fifteen steps that parents should take to lead their children to lives of godliness in Christ:
  - a. Dedicate your children to God at the beginning of their lives (1 Sam 1:28; Lk 2:22).
  - b. Teach your children to fear the Lord and turn away from sin, to love righteousness and to hate evil. Instill in them an awareness of God’s attitude and judgment toward sin (see Heb 1:9).
  - c. Teach your children to obey you by loving use of Biblical discipline (Dt 8:5, Pr 3:11-12; 13:24; 23:13-14; 29:15,17; Heb 12:7).

- d. Protect your children from ungodly influences by being aware of Satan's attempts to destroy them spiritually through attraction to the world through immoral companions (Pr 13:20; 28:7; 1 Jn 2:15-17)
- e. Make your children aware that God is always observing and evaluating what they do, think and say (Ps 139:1-12)
- f. Do all you can to help your children come early in life to personal faith, repentance and water baptism in Christ (Mt 19:14)
- g. Establish your children in a spiritual church where God's word is proclaimed, his righteous standards honored and the Holy Spirit manifested. Teach them the motto "I am a friend to all who fear you." (Ps 119:63; Ac 12:5)
- h. Encourage your children to remain separated from the world and witness and work for God (2Co 6:14 – 7:1; Jas 4:4). Teach them that they are strangers and aliens on this earth (Heb 11:13-16), that their real home and citizenship is in heaven with Christ (Phil. 3:20, Col 3:1-3).
- i. Instruct your children in the importance of the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Ac 1:4-5,8; 2:4,39).
- j. Teach your children that God loves them and has a specific purpose for their lives (Ik 1:13-17; Ro 8:30; 1 Pe 1:3-9).
- k. Instruct your children daily in God's Word, both in conversation and family devotions (Dt 4:9; 6:5-7; 1Ti 4:6; 2Ti 3:15).
- l. Through example and exhortation, encourage your children to live lives devoted to prayer (Ac 6:4; Ro 12:12; Eph 6:18; Jas 5:16)
- m. Prepare your children to suffer and endure persecution because of righteousness (Mt 5:10-12). They must know that "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2Ti 3:12).
- n. Lift your children up to God by constant and earnest intercession (Eph 6:18; Jas 5:16-18; Jn 17:1; Jesus' prayer for his disciples is also a model of parents' prayers for their children).
- o. Have such love and concern for your children that you would be willing to pour out your life as if it were a sacrifice to the Lord, in order to deepen their faith and make their lives what they should be in the Lord (Php 2:17).

*This was provided from the Spirit-Filled Life Study Bible by Jack Hayford. The intent of this material is to assist you in knowing what God expects of you as parents, and raising your children the way He intends for you to raise them. We would be glad to help answer any questions you might have. We also periodically offer a seminar called "Kingdom Families" here at Grace, that would benefit you tremendously!*