

BABY DEDICATION POLICY

It is usually an inevitable delight in one's home when the blessing of birth or parenting infants becomes a reality. During those moments, or soon thereafter, the idea of dedication confronts both parents of the child as well as the church. This statement of policy offers a system of guiding principles that hopefully will enlighten families who are seeking to make this privileged experience one that can be special and remembered for years to come.

The "rite" of dedication is a Christian privilege. As a participating part of the body of Christ and the local church, one is entitled to have this sacred opportunity afforded to them at an appropriate place and time (whether at the church, in the home, or some other designated place). This act or ceremony is designed to do several things when it occurs:

Firstly, it announces the blessed arrival of new life into the Christian home and acknowledges that children are a gift from God. The Bible states, "Every good and every perfect gift comes from above... (James 1:17). Psalm 127:3 states, "...children are a heritage of the Lord..."

Secondly, it certifies the commitment of the parents to Christ as they assume the new obligation of shaping and molding the life of another human being given to them by God.

Thirdly, the dedication ceremony engages the cooperation and participation of the Christian community in the "rearing" process, as parents alone cannot discharge this awesome responsibility. The church is the extended family that is present to confirm their faith and commitment to Christian practices and principles before and around the child to undergird what should be demonstrated in the home.

With this type of focused deliberate concentration of "witness," the prayer and hope are that the child will grow and soon realize and accept Jesus Christ as their own personal Lord and Savior.

This is not christening or baptizing the child into the body of Christ. It is the Bible-based belief of this ministry that "belief" must precede baptism. It must be a conscious decision on the part of the individual to accept or reject the message of the gospel. When one reaches the age of accountability knowing and distinguishing between right and wrong, and confesses with his or her own mouth, it is only then that one can become a part of the Christian church and have eternal life (Romans 10:9-10).

The Pastor and the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church family do not hold at fault a baby born out of wedlock, nor will they seek to punish the child by withholding the Baby Blessing. However, this will only be done (publicly) when the parents show genuine contrition before the church and ask for restoration. Parents who refuse will not be allowed to participate in this blessed event for their child. A private blessing can, however, be done in the pastor's office with the parent(s) and godparents as witnesses.

Any questions or concerns regarding the application or interpretation of this policy will be addressed by representatives of the church.

BABY DEDICATION REQUEST FORM

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

2030 Palm Avenue

Fort Myers, Florida 33916

(239) 334 - 1557

fmbcftmyers@gmail.com

Mother: _____ Member: YES NO

Father: _____ Member: YES NO

Child's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____, 20____

Place of Birth (city, state): _____

Godmother: _____ Member: YES _____ NO _____

Godfather: _____ Member: YES _____ NO _____

Public Ceremony in the church sanctuary during or after regular church service _____

Private Ceremony in the church sanctuary (see General Use of Church Facilities policy) _____

Private Ceremony in the Pastor's office (group of eight or fewer) _____

Requested Date of Dedication Ceremony: _____, 20____ Time: _____

Applicant/Parent Contact Information

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signed: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / 20 ___

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: ___ / ___ / 20 ___

SPECIAL NOTES
