

## **What Alpine Believes: Child Dedication**

The practice of Child Dedication is as old as the days of Christ and as relevant as today's news. For in Mark 10:13-16 it says *"People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them."*

From this passage we see Christ's care and love for children. At Alpine Chapel we follow His instructions and bless the children. It is a time of dedication on the part of the parents and a commitment on the part of the church. The parents dedicate their child to God and commit to raise them in the pathway of faith. The church commits itself to help in the instruction and guidance of this child. It is a beautiful ceremony filled with great meaning. But there are always questions that surround Child Dedication. Following are a few of these.

**Does Child dedication mean my child is now a Christian?** No, Child Dedication has nothing to do with Biblical salvation. According to the Bible, a person becomes a Christian when they receive Jesus Christ as the only total payment for their offenses towards God and recognizes His Lordship over their life. A baby is unable to reason at that level. A personal decision cannot be made by parents on behalf of their child.

**What does Child Dedication do for a child?** Child Dedication is a process in which the parents dedicate themselves to raise the child in a Christian manner. This does not assure the child will follow all the ways of the Bible or the Christian lifestyle. It becomes a public declaration by the parents of their desire to see their child raised to accept the gospel and this lifestyle. It is also a time when we, the Church, dedicate ourselves to help the parents in this process by our prayers, teaching, and practical assistance.

**Is Child Dedication the same as infant baptism?** The purpose of baptism is to publicly identify a believer in Jesus Christ. In the case of an infant, they are not capable of that mental understanding or belief. In the Bible passage mentioned before, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But, He did not baptize them. We follow His practice of blessing the children. Alpine follows the New Testament practice of baptism for those who have made a personal decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation.

*Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.  
And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."  
Matthew 18:4-5*

**Questions? Email [elderboard@alpinechapel.org](mailto:elderboard@alpinechapel.org)**