

MOUNT ZION CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN DEDICATION CEREMONY

UNDERSTANDING DEDICATION

CHURCH TRADITION VERSUS SCRIPTURES

The two opposing view in Christianity on baptism: Infant and Adult Baptism

INITIAL SOURCE OF INFANT BAPTISM -

Zeal of early evangelists to assure that the child would go to heaven if he/she would die comes from non-scriptural beliefs.

Water Baptism does not make you a Christian. -

A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ; a ceremony can only make public what you already are.

Deception of Sacraments in some denominations =

The belief that particular Words, Actions or Objects have Spiritual Power is at the base of Pagan Religions and Witchcraft. There is no spiritual power in physical things. The power is in our intention. (e.g. People can take "communion" daily and stay in sin – What they should do is truly repent, have communion with God daily, and they would overcome sin)

We sin in our spirit not in our flesh/action.

Some actions are sin for some people and not sin for others because sin is what is not of faith ([Romans 14:23](#)).

THE BONDAGE OF INFANT BAPTISM

Believing that we will go to heaven because of a promise somebody else did for us, hinders us from making a personal commitment later.

JUST KEEPING TRADITIONS DOES NOT SAVE YOU -

Only a true relationship with God can save us.

It is important to understand what we do, not just follow traditions blindly.

In a Spiritual Event, it is not the formula that has power but the intentions of the people participating in it.

THE BIBLE MENTION INFANT DEDICATION BY PARENTS

EXAMPLES – Circumcision ceremony and Dedication ceremony

These are Old Testament Tradition – but the principles apply today

- SAMUEL – [1 Sam 1:19-28](#)
- JOHN THE BAPTIST – [Luke 1:59](#)
- JESUS - NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION – On the eighth day -[Luke 2:2](#) – Spiritual importance of Jesus’ dedication

CONTENT OF THE DEDICATION CEREMONY

- **THANKSGIVING** and **CELEBRATION** for the new child.

Children are a blessing of the Lord – [Psalms 127:3](#)

- **NAMING** of the child – a prophetic announcement of character and purpose of the life of the child.
- **SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION** = VOW FOR DENIAL OF THE FLESH

The parents decide to raise and teach the child in God’s ways

An outwards sign and a remainder of separation unto God.

- **BLESSING**

A Minister or Elder pronounced the blessing on the child.

THE MEANING AND REASONS FOR DEDICATION

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him to 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. (Mark 10:13-16)

Although only adults can truly choose, even a little child can receive Jesus, and have a relationship with Him. This relationship is of the heart, not of the mind.

THANKSGIVING AND CELEBRATION

An attitude and witness of our faith to our friends and relatives.

NAMING OF THE CHILD

A PROPHETIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHARACTER AND PURPOSE

Name was important in the Judaic and early church tradition. It was believed that the name given to a child prophesied

the child's character, characteristics or purpose. For ex. Jesus means Savior, Moses means to draw out, Paul means little.

When a person changed, often the name was also changed.

- Jacob, that means deceiver, became Israel that means God prevails or Prince of God.
- Abram, exalted father, became Abraham, which means the father of a multitude. When Saul converted, he became Paul.

VOW AND COVENANT

The child is brought to the before God, in the assembly of believers, and dedicated (separated unto) the Lord. In Hebraic tradition, they circumcised a child as an outward sign of this covenant vow.

This is a vow of the parents, not of the child

The parent cannot renounce to Satan for the child, but he can vow to:

1) Daily teach the child God's laws and principles and train to follow them.

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children, talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

We must bring our children to Jesus, not just on Sunday morning, but everyday.

2) **Bring up the child in the admonition and knowledge of the Lord, and in separation from the world (circumcision).**

Train your child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it. ([Prov. 22:6](#))

Parents need the help of the church to bring up their children as Christian believers, and we must make sure that the children participate in church activities.

Part of this commitment is the example the parents give with their actions and attitude and their involvement the church.

3) **Thee vows formally become the parents' responsibilities before God.**

BENEFITS OF DEDICATION

God's covenant blessings and protection over the children as they grow up until they make their own commitment to God, and are born again.

THE BLESSING

The minister or elder pronounced a blessing on the child with laying on of hands.

THE CEREMONY

1. PRAYER

We are here to establish a covenant between the Almighty God, (and [name of husband]/and [name of wife])) who come[s] to dedicate [their/his/her] child[ren] to the Lord.

Holy Spirit shine your light, that ([name of husband]/and [name of wife]) may fully realize the responsibility resting upon [him/her/them], to teach and train [this child/these children], by precept and example, so that [he/she/they] may finally come into your everlasting kingdom.

Holy Spirit seal this vow made before God with your authority and power. Amen

2. THE VOW

a) *Do you believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament?*

Answer: [I/We] do.

b) Will you diligently teach [this child/these children] the statutes and commandments of the Most High, and train [him/her/them] in the admonition of the Lord?

Answer: [I/We] do.

c) Do you, in the presence of God, and these witnesses, solemnly dedicate [this child/these children] to the Lord, so that [he/she/they] may live a separated life in God's service all the days of [his/her/their] life?

Answer: [I/We] do.

3. THE BLESSING

The child[ren] [is/are] taken by the minister who lay hands on [him/her/them].

a) What name you are giving to [this child/these children]?

Answer: (name of child[ren])

b) (name of child[ren]) as a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, I now dedicate you to God, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

c) Prayer of blessing for protection of the [child/children] and the parent[s]

4. CLOSING

d) I now return (name of child[ren]), whom you have dedicated to the Lord, to your care and keeping. I charge you to remember the vow you made today: to give all diligence to raise [him/her/them] in the ways of Lord.

Now, the God of peace may make you able and strong to do what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory for ever and ever. AMEN.