

Dedication Service

I. INTRODUCTION

A. IT TAKES A CHURCH TO RAISE A CHILD

1. Hillary Rodham-Clinton once made the statement that “it takes a village to raise a child.”
 - a. There is definitely *some* truth to that statement.
2. It is expedient that a **church family** understands thee are vital in rearing children in the church.
3. Whether you realize it or not, your influence on any child who attends this church is important, as it will be with **Lyric and Joyce**, whom we are dedicating to the Lord today.
 - a. In fact, the Psalmist, David, said it like this in **Psalm 145:4** –
 - (1) *“One generation shall praise thy works to another and shall declare thy mighty acts.”*

B. SCRIPTURES

1. The Scriptural basis from which we get the basis for child dedication comes to us from the story of Hannah and her son, Samuel, which is found in I Samuel chapter 1.
 - a. I Samuel 1:20-28 –
 - (1) *20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.*
 - (2) *21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.*

- (3) *22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord, and there abide for ever.*
- (4) *23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the Lord establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.*
- (5) *24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the Lord in Shiloh: and the child was young.*
- (6) *25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.*
- (7) *26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord.*
- (8) *27 For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him:*
- (9) *28 Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.*

- 2. In Luke 2:22, we read where Mary, the mother of Jesus, along with her husband, Joseph, presented the Baby Jesus to the Lord when he was just eight days old.
 - a. The dedication of a child to God's service is an ancient practice, but we must remember that this is only a beginning.
- 3. **Proverbs 22:6** admonishes us as parents to ***"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."***

- a. We must engage in training our children in the ways of the Lord.

II. BODY

A. ADDRESS TO THE PARENTS

1. **Bruce and Sandra**, this is a happy and significant occasion that brings us together.
 - a. Like Hannah and Mary of old, you have brought your **children** to the House of God today to present them to the Lord.
 - (1) You have heard the invitation of the Master, who said: ***"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven"*** (Mark 10:14).
2. The purpose of this service is to help you, as parents, to appreciate your obligation to train your **children** in the respect and admonition of the Lord, so that when **they** shall come to the age of responsibility, **they** will most naturally turn from the wrong to the right.
 - a. To obey Proverbs 22:6, though it is a proverb and not a promise, is to give your **daughters** every opportunity to know and to do what is right when you no longer have a real say in **their** life and decisions.
 - (1) To raise **Lyric and Joyce** to fear God gives **them** the best opportunity for receiving the salvation that Jesus Christ came to give to all men liberally.
3. God has a purpose for these **children's** lives.
 - a. To find that purpose and to live it out full will mean success;
 - (1) To refuse or ignore it will mean failure, no matter how much worldly acclaim may come to **them**.

- (a) It is your privilege and duty to guide your **children** in such a way as to make the will of God the greatest ambition of **their** lives.

- 4. To this task you are called to concentrate yourselves today...
 - a. To this end you dedicate your **children** to God.

III. CONCLUSION

A. COVENANT

- 1. In accordance with the purpose for which you have come, please respond to the following covenant with ***"We do."***

LYRIC AND JOYCE BUSHNELL COVENANT

Minister: Do you now present **Lyric LeeAnn and Joyce Marie** before God, in solemn dedication?

Parents: *We do*

Minister: Do you consecrate yourselves as parents to bring up **Lyric and Joyce** in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Parents: *We do.*

Minister: Do you promise to instruct **them** in the teachings of Jesus Christ, and in the practice of prayer, and to guide **them** in the development of Christ-like character?

Parents: *We do.*

Minister: Do you promise to try to the best of your ability so to shape the home life of **Lyric and Joyce**, both by family devotion and by your words and your example, that **they** will at the proper age most naturally come to an open confession of Christ, and into the fellowship and service of the church?

Parents: *We do.*

Minister: *In the name of the Lord Jesus I dedicate these children, Lyric LeeAnn and Joyce Marie Bushnell, to God and His holy service.*