

Giving You Child To God

(I Samuel1: 1-11)

Introduction

A) Annually, Celebration Baptist Church designates a Sunday as Baby Dedication Sunday. The purpose of the day is to provide opportunity for parents of young children to publically dedicate their child (children) to God.

B) More than a ritual, the dedication of the child is a commitment. Baby Dedication Sunday is more about the parent's role in raising the child than it is the future destiny of the child. We probably should call the day, "Parental Dedication Day."

C) But is there a Biblical precedent for such an action. At CBC, we don't want to be legalistic, but we certainly want to be BIBLICAL!!!! The answer is yes.

In the Old Testament, a set of parents, Elkanah and Hannah, dedicated their child to the Lord. It is a marvelous story of obedience, sacrifice, and spiritual service. The story is primarily focused on Hannah because of cultural circumstance.

D) Contextualize I Samuel.

I. Hannah's Circumstance

A) Her Character

(Hannah was a godly woman that has a personal relationship with Jehovah.)

B) Her Dilemma

(Because God has promised many descendants to the Hebrews, most Hebrew woman felt cursed if they were unable to bear children.)

C) Her Response

(Seek God's help in the matter)

II. Hannah's Plea

A) Selflessness Act

(She would have the child for a brief time and then give him over to the priesthood.)

B) Spiritual Act

(Children would carry on the spiritual heritage and further God's kingdom.)

C) Submissive Act

(Hannah laid the matter at the feet of God.)

III. Child Dedication

A) Confirmation of your supreme love for Christ

B) Clarification of ownership

C) Commitment to raise that child under the Lordship of Jesus Christ

D) Claiming of God's best plan and promises for that child's life.

Conclusion