



RESTORATION  
CHURCH OF SANFORD

# Raising The *Next Generation*



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# What is Parent Commissioning?

*“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth.  
Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!”*

*Psalm 127:3-5 ESV*

A new child has entered your life! What a joyful and exciting time! You also are now faced with new feelings, decisions, and challenges as you begin your journey of parenting this precious gift. Yes, you are holding a beautiful gift from God. You want the best for this child. You want to “do it right”. For this reason, you are participating in Parent Commissioning at Restoration Church.

Parent Commissioning is made of several important ingredients. First is the recognition that the child you hold is not yours, but God’s. God is the author of life. Your baby is not an accident, mistake or even the outcome of your choice. The baby you hold today is a miracle of God’s creative power. This life, with all its uniqueness and potential, is a gift that God has given to you.

*“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.”*

*Psalm 139:13-14 ESV*

We, the church, are rejoicing with you! We also want to participate in this day to commit to walking along side you on this amazing journey. Your church wants to guide you, partner with you, and provide you with resources to help you raise your child in and for the Lord.



## Let's Celebrate

In 1 Samuel 1, a woman named Hannah yearned for a child. Her greatest desire was to be a mother. Yet, she experienced disappointment after disappointment and remained childless. She continually cried out to God, and in time, God gave her the gift of a son. When Samuel was born, Hannah said,

***“For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted my petition that I made to him. Therefore, I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord”***

Understanding that the child born to Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, was a gift from God, Hannah stood before God and offered praise and thanks for His gift in their lives.

As Hannah offered praise to the Lord, Parent Commissioning will be a time to praise the Lord for the gift you have received. Together with your church family, we want to embrace you and the challenges that lie ahead, praying for you and celebrating with you as you look to all God will do through your child's life!

# How can I be a Godly Parent?

God has given you a gift. But this gift comes with a responsibility that will encourage your dependance on Him day by day.

Read *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

This scripture gives you a job description.

- You are to love God and pursue a relationship with Him daily.
- You are to honor God by obeying His Word in your life.
- You are to teach your child to love and have a reference for God.
- You are to shepherd their hearts, disciple them and point them to Jesus Christ.

# How will the church support me?

- Your RCS family will commit to taking this journey beside you.
- Teaching God's Word to you and your child.
- Praying and supporting you in times of challenge
- Praising God and celebrating with you in times of joy.
- Encourage, love and partner with you to disciple your child.

# Dad's Vital Role

## Love the Lord

***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”***

***Deuteronomy 6:5-6***

A dad's first responsibility is to walk in a growing relationship with God. That relationship grows by placing God's truth in your heart and talking with God about life.

## Love Your Wife

***“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,”***

***Ephesians 5:25***

The second greatest gift you can give your children is a good marriage with your wife. Loving her well will model God's design for their future relationships. How tenderly and lovingly you treat your wife will speak volumes to little girls and boys. Leading your family in strength and humility will impress priceless principles that can only be communicated by a godly dad.

***“ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;[a] it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.”***

***1 Corinthians 13:4-8***

# Love Your Children

*“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*

*Ephesians 6:4*

# Pass On Your Faith

*“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”*

*2 Timothy 1:5*

As a parent, you are their spiritual leader. The church should guide you with support, encouragement, and resources. The church will also love your children and help lead them in their spiritual journey.



# Mom's Vital Role

## Love the Lord

***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”***

***Deuteronomy 6:5-6***

A mom's first responsibility is to walk in a growing relationship with God. That relationship grows by placing God's truth in your heart and talking with God about life.

## Love and Respect Your Husband

***“ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”***

***Ephesians 5:33***

Respect translates into love in the language of men. Respecting your husband and blessing his leadership will model an amazing relationship for your children to witness. As with your husband's investment in your marriage, the second greatest gift you can give your children is a healthy marriage to watch.

***“ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;[a] it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.”***

***1 Corinthians 13:4-8***



# Love Your Children

*“She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.”*

*Proverbs 31:27*

Proverbs 31 outlines what some have titled a “super-woman”. It details a woman who is praised for many attributes in how she cares for her family. She loves her family through diligent work and sacrifices self for the sake of her husband and children.

# Pass On Your Faith

*“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”*

*2 Timothy 1:5*

As a parent, you are their spiritual leader. The church should guide you with support, encouragement, and resources. The church will also love your children and help lead them in their spiritual journey.



# Single Parents

## *Pass On Your Faith*

***“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”***

***2 Timothy 1:5***

When Paul wrote these words to Timothy, he clearly communicated a godly grandmother and mother passing down their faith to Timothy. God’s ideal in marriage has been laid out from the early days in the garden. However, the infamous bite from Adam and Eve ushered sin into humanity. Sin often devastates families. The family is one of Satan’s most common attack points. However, the broken-ness caused by sin can be mended with wholeness through Christ. God knows each of our unique situations so take courage - you can effectively pass your love for Christ to your children! God’s heart beats for children and single parents who are seeking to honor Him and lead a godly family!

## *Community*

A life lived in a biblical community is crucial for every believer and the need is even more magnified for single parents. Through godly relationships with others, God will provide the support needed to help you raise your sons and daughters to follow Him. Commit to plug into an active Bible Study and other small group ministries to foster community in your life in Christ!

***“Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.”***

***Psalms 68:5***

God’s heart beats for children and single parents who are seeking to honor Him and lead a godly family!



# F.A.Q

## **Why don't we baptize babies?**

We believe that the Bible has much to say about the practice of baptism.

At Restoration Church of Sanford, we take baptism seriously because we believe that God takes baptism seriously. It is our goal to practice baptism the way that the New Testament prescribes. Baptism is one of two ordinances (the other being the Lord's Supper) given to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism is for believers - those who have put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is only seen in the Bible when someone receives Christ and confesses Him as Savior and Lord. Baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, symbolizing life before Christ and a new life in Him. While the intent of infant baptism is to identify a child with the Christian faith, baptism cannot secure salvation. Each child must hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For this reason, we have a Parent Commissioning service. We do not want to confuse this service with baptism which follows a profession of faith.

## **Are we required to be covenant members of Restoration Church to participate?**

Yes. Participants must be members of our church body because we are asking our church family to make a commitment to embrace and support your family. That can only be accomplished if you are fully involved in the ministries of our church.

## **Can we include godparents as a part of Parent Commissioning?**

No. Once again, this is not infant baptism, rather it is a recognition of the gift God has provided. The practice of choosing godparents comes out of history and church tradition and is not found in Scripture. We do, however, encourage every family to select prayer partners who will stand along with the church members and commit to supporting the parents in prayer during the child-raising years.

## **Can unmarried biological parents participate in Parent Commissioning?**

No. While we honor the life of each child and encourage parents, married and unmarried, to embrace the importance of spiritual commitment for children, parent commissioning is intended to reflect the teaching of Scripture on family life. Understanding the sacred honor of marriage as presented in God's Word, we believe every public act of worship is to conform to His standards. To fail to recognize and honor the specific teaching of Scripture on matters of family life would violate the integrity of our church and the Savior we serve. For those who are unmarried or living together, taking steps to acknowledge and surrender to God's design for their individual lives would take precedence over participation in parent commissioning. Our goal in ministry is to meet people where they are in life, lead them to God's grace and truth, and help them discover and pursue God's design for their lives.

## **How do I sign up for Parent Commissioning?**

The elders consider it a true blessing to assist you on this special day. Please contact our elders to begin the registration process. Again, congratulations on this precious gift from God!

## ***Current Elders***

***Arthur Gonçalves***

Elder

[arthur@restorationsanford.com](mailto:arthur@restorationsanford.com)

***Jeremy Toro***

Elder

[jeremy@restorationsanford.com](mailto:jeremy@restorationsanford.com)



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