

Northshore Christian Church

Addendum VII

Children in the Church

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God intends His followers to carry out evangelism (outreach) and discipleship (teaching) first and foremost in the home through multiple generations, "so that you and your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands" (Deuteronomy 6:2; Luke 1:50).

It is not the church's responsibility to raise children. Rather, we believe that the church should encourage and equip parents to raise their own children toward spiritual maturity (Deuteronomy 6:7, Ephesians 6:1-4, Proverbs 22:6; Colossians 3:18-21).

Our focus as a church is overwhelmingly on encouraging healthy Christian homes. Of course, there will be exceptions when the church will need to be sensitive to non-traditional homes with only one parent or parents that don't support Christian values.

Members of this church should be eager and willing to assist and encourage children whose parent or parents are not active or supportive. We also want to be sensitive to the needs and potential of young adults, mature singles, mid-life couples, seniors, widows/widowers, and shut-ins. They are an important and necessary part of this church.

Followers of Christ are to be equipped for spiritual maturity and ministry primarily through family-based, one-on-one, heart-level relationships, and especially by preparing fathers to be servant-leaders in their family and church. A dominant clergy should never supplant a father's involvement, as unfortunately happens in many churches.

We encourage families to stay together during our Sunday morning gatherings. Our culture seems to aggressively promote the disintegration of the family. We believe church should be a place where families are encouraged to stay and learn together, where the children see their parents and other adults model Christian behaviors. Rather than separate the children from the parents with "children's church", we want the children to know that they are an important part of our local body of believers. It's a bit more noisy and lively, but we believe children can offer a lot to the church, and can begin understanding spiritual truths at a young age. Therefore, we offer a special children's time during our Sunday morning gathering.