

WHY WE ARE LENT TO THE LORD

[1 Samuel 1:27-28](#) “For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him: therefore also I have lent him to the Lord: as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord.”



Samuel Dedicated by Hannah at the Temple by Frank W.W. Topham

The story of Samuel captivated Luther as a young man and he prayed the Lord to make him a pious man like Samuel. The Lord surely answered Luther's prayer and it can also be said of him that he was “lent to the Lord” all the days of his life.

Hannah's words express her gratitude and thanks to the Lord for giving her this son, and she dedicated the little boy to the service of the Lord for the rest of his life. All parents whose hearts are given to the Lord and His Messiah as was the heart of Hannah will repeat these words of hers and also be happy to dedicate their children to the service of the Lord.

Children, you were also loaned to the Lord by your parents at your baptism. You were set apart from the world to be a child of God all the days of your lives. Today from our text we want to show you some of the reasons why your parents gave you back to the Lord in Baptism. We know that you will heartily agree with their actions and be happy to be loaned to the Lord.

WHY WE ARE LENT TO THE LORD

1. WE CAME FROM HIM

Hannah prayed long and earnestly for a child and vowed that she would dedicate him to the service of the Lord for life. God did hear her prayers and gave her a son and she called him Samuel. “For this child I prayed: and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him,” she

confessed. Our children surely come from the Lord for He alone can create life. Believers pray to God in Jesus' name for children, and He answers their prayers. There are not many things in life which we can rate higher than our children.

When a person deeds property to a city to be used for a public park the wishes of the donor are respected and upheld. When the members of our church give an envelope for a specific charity, we respect their wishes and do not misappropriate their money for something else. And when the Lord gave us our children He specified how they were to be trained by us, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." It should be said of us as of Abraham in [Gen 18:19](#) "For I know him that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord," Children are not to be "misappropriated" for something else, but the wishes of the donor are to be respected.

Children, now you can better understand why your parents loaned you to the Lord and soon after you were born gave you to Him in baptism. It was the wish of Him who brought you into being, and your parents could not disregard the wishes of the Lord whom they love with all their hearts. "Lent to the Lord," surely you are in good hands.

2. WE ARE TO SERVE HIM

Anyone who reads the life of the prophet Samuel will readily see how he carried out the wishes of his mother by serving the Lord all the days of his life. He was a great prophet during very trying times in Israel.

When we baptized our children they received a new name, the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The logical continuation of baptism is to train our children to serve Him whose name they bear. How contradictory to baptize our children and then let them grow up to follow their own sinful flesh instead of turning their hearts toward the Lord.

How important to child-training are those table prayers and bed-time prayers, those wonderful Bible stories told the child at home. Little Samuel was not surprised when he was taken away from his home at such an early age. It followed logically from his home-training, for he was brought up with this in mind and was certainly told beforehand the intentions of his parents.

Christian parents are the best missionaries with their children and they may be training some future worker or pillar of the church.

Early in life our parents send their children to the church for continued lessons. Later on the children are to receive thorough instructions in the doctrines of the Bible. With such careful training the congregation will suffer very little loss ([Prov.22:6](#)) "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Children, this has been your story up to the present moment. You have been taught by your parents and the church how to serve the Lord for the rest of your days. Confirmation is not the end but the beginning of your service to Him who redeemed you. This is the reason why you have been lent to the Lord. You children are the future church, and as you are so will be the coming church. May you resolve to serve the dear Lord as long as you live.

There is another most important reason why we are lent to the Lord, the most important point of all.

3. WE ARE TO RETURN TO HIM

We readily concede that our text does not expressly state that our children are to return to the Lord, but the implication is so clear there can be no room for doubt. It is self-evident also that the Lord wants us to draw this conclusion. Samuel was prayed for and lent to the Lord so that when this life was ended he might return to the Lord forever in heaven. The text and our sermon would not make much sense without this conclusion.

Others may have different aims in life, such as glory, money, honor, success, power, etc. Wordly-minded people have these goals before them and teach them to their children, but we are strangers and pilgrims in this world. One of the main purposes of Christian training and instructions is to emphasize the Biblical aim and goal of life. Our eternal home is heaven, thanks be to Jesus, and what a crown awaits us and our children. What a reunion when parents and children and all the redeemed are gathered around the throne, washed pure in the blood of the Lamb that once was slain.



If we gladly loan our children for the service of the Lord, it will not be too hard for us to offer the Lord our gifts and talents and all that we have to be used for the furtherance of His kingdom on earth.

Little Samuel reminds us of another young boy who said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Thank God, now and forever, that this boy stayed with His Father's business and redeemed us all by His sufferings and death on the cross. Through faith in Him and His cross we have eternal life.

Parents, it is self-evident you can only give your children to the Lord when you have first given yourself to Him. Now help these young lambs of Christ to stay in the service of the Lord, Children, "do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the rule of the divine Word, to be diligent in the use of the means of grace, to walk as it becometh the Gospel of Christ, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to the Triune God, even unto death?" (Confirmation vow). We are certain your answer will be, "I do so intend, by the grace of God" because you are lent to the Lord now and forever.

AMEN.

PRAYER. Dear heavenly Father, we thank Thee especially for the gift of our beloved children. Truly they are precious in Thy sight. Give us the necessary zeal to train them in Thy holy ways. Let them grow up as a new generation anxious to serve Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. Finally, in our dear Savior, let us all be united around Thy throne of glory where all of Thy children will praise Thy holy name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. AMEN.