

**"SERVICE OF INFANT BAPTISM"****Introduction**

1. A subject suitable for a child baptism
2. This wonderful chapter about Samuel

**1. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE INCLUDES CHILDREN**

- 1) Samuel was yet only a child – yet God here takes notice of him.  
**OBSERVE:** God takes notice of children: their spiritual state – their behaviour, etc.  
**APPLICATION:** We who are grown-ups should love children and encourage them to seek God.

- 2) God's care for children is often taught:  
Examples: Isaac; Jacob and Esau; Moses; John the Baptist; CHRIST.  
**OBSERVE:** The way to have God's care for you as a child is to put God first.  
**APPLICATION:** Parents – 3 things every child needs: love – happiness – discipline.

- 3) What is most important in the life of every child: to "know the Lord",
  - (i) there is a time when they do not
  - (ii) we long for the time when they do**APPLICATION:** Young people, how do these words suit you – each one?

**2. WE NEED NOT TIE DOWN THE TIME OF A CHILD'S CONVERSION TO BAPTISM**

- 1) Samuel had received Circumcision as an infant – but that was not his conversion.  
**OBSERVE:** Conversion and Baptism are not the same thing.

- 2) The basis on which we baptize children is stated in the words of our Catechism (LC 165, 166):

- (i) it is a great thing to be part of the church – even outwardly.
- (ii) as our children are taught, and prayed for, are brought to God's house they are influenced by heavenly things.

**APPLICATION:** Young people, you should be different from others.

- 3) We who are parents should long for the conversion of our children and do all we can to have them saved.
  - (i) How spiritual Hannah was.
  - (ii) Her prayers are heard here.**OBSERVE:** This is conversion – to come to know God for ourselves.

**3. TO KNOW THE LORD IS THE WAY TO HAVE A FRUITFUL AND USEFUL LIFE**

- 1) Conversion is the start of a godly life of service and usefulness.  
 "The word of the Lord" = Samuel's life – work was to prophesy.

Examples:

- his words to Eli
- Ebenezer
- Saul and David...

- 2) As we baptize this child today we long for her to be converted and to serve the Lord all her life long.
- 3) Let us who are older pray for her and for all our children and young people:
  - (i) that they may know the Lord
  - (ii) that God's word may be the basis of their life
  - (iii) that they may get safely to heaven at last

**CONCLUSION**

May God give to this and all our children, the grace which Baptism points to.

**PSALM**

**125:1 – 5**

**127:1 – 5**

**128:1 – 6**