

The Lord's Prayer – Part 1

Sermon 15 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 6:9-13

The Lord's Prayer divides into 3 main sections.

The Preface – v. 9a

The Petitions – v. 9b-13a (seven in all – exemplary, not exhaustive)

The petitions deal with God and His glory in v. 9-10

And then we bring our concerns in v. 11-13a

The Praise – v. 13b

Throughout the prayer – we can see the focus is on God and His glory more than it is on our needs and wants, although those are also included.

The Preface -- **Our Father who art in heaven -- Matt. 6:9a**

I. Our Father

A. God as our God – The Covenantal aspect of this prayer

1. It should be noticed first of all that this is not a prayer that can honestly be said by everyone.
2. The Mutuality in the prayer “our” Father.
3. Each Christian is to call God “my” Father.

B. God is our Father – By Adoption

1. “Our Father” shows us that He is near and not afar off.
2. Calling Him Father is something to which we can relate.
3. Human fathers do good for their Children – Mathew 7:7-11

Jesus speaks in the common Hebrew teaching form – which is to say something in triplicate. V. 7

Ask – seek – knock

4. As a Father, He knows the Needs of His Children

Psalm 103:13 says, *“As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him.”*

Psalm 103:14 says, *“He knows our frame. He remembers that we are dust.”*

Thomas Watson says, *“He knows that we are not made out of steel or marble. He is mindful of our flawed and weak condition.”*

5. We can be Confident of our Father’s Protection.

Our 1689 London Baptist Confession says – in Chapter 12 – Of Adoption

All those that are justified, God vouchsafed, in and for the sake of His only Son Jesus Christ to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God, have his name put upon them, receive the spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a Father, yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.

II. Who Art in Heaven

He is the Lord God of the Universe – the maker of Heaven and Earth and His “dwelling place” is in Heaven – but one day Heaven and Earth will be one.

This is where Jesus is today, John 14:3 -- *“If I go away to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself – that where I am, there ye may be also.”*

We do not say Heavenly Father because He is confined to Heaven.
God is infinite and omnipresent.

Isaiah 66:1 -- *“The Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.”*

Solomon prayed concerning the Temple in 1 Kings 8:27, *“Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold the heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built?”*

Arthur Pink makes the point that “our Father” is balanced by “which art in heaven”.
One truth without the other could make us too familiar, or conversely scare us away from approaching Him with boldness.

1 Peter 1:17-19

This reverential fear is lacking – sometimes even among Christians.