

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 52, q&a 128-129

Introduction

“The Doxology of the Lord's Prayer”

I. Its Content

A. A doxology is an expression of praise to God

1. It is different than a benediction
2. It expresses the goal, or purpose, or end of all things

B. Four elements in this doxology

1. Kingdom -- God rules over all
 - a. David expresses this, in 1 Chronicles 11:29
 - b. This is difficult for kings, and for us, to say
2. Power -- God is absolute in power, omnipotent
 - a. Different ways to look at the power of God
 - b. But, here, the focus is the ability of God to answer prayer
3. Glory
 - a. The word glory refers to the divinity of God
 - b. God reveals his glory, that we might give him glory
4. Forever
 - a. Eternity is outside of time
 - b. So all the time we have should be used in doxology

II. Its Significance

A. We ought to give doxology to God

1. Because praise excels petition -- when time is done, when all our desires are satisfied, then we will still pray, and prayer will be exclusively doxological
2. Because doxology creates unity -- prayers bring believers together, especially prayers and songs of praise

B. We can pray with confidence

1. This doxology exalts God as able, and puts the future in his hands
2. This doxology humbles us -- we cannot depend on any self worth as the foundation for prayer
3. This doxology leads to dependance on Christ and the cross -- so we pray in Jesus' name

III. Its Climax

A. The word “Amen” refers to truth, firmness and dependability

B. What Amen means at the end of prayer

1. It is an expression of sincere desire and conviction
2. It is an expression of unconditional rest in the will of God
3. It is an expression of wholehearted confidence that God will answer