

Theme: Confident prayer and praise is based in (1) our knowledge of Who God is and (2) our confidence in the intimate relationship we have with Him through Christ. The deeper our understanding of these things the richer (and easier!) our prayer and praise will be.

Background: We begin our study of the pattern of prayer that Jesus teaches.

Introduction: We don't always know how to start a project. Jesus makes it very clear where we are to start when we pray.

## I. Our Father in Heaven

### A. God in person

#### 1. Defining "person"

- Human individual, thinking, feeling, free moral agent
- Related to others, in relationship

#### 2. In relationship

##### a. God as a "Father"

- Triune nature - One God/Three Persons
- An eternal, perfect relationship

##### b. God as our Father

- Not approaching a lifeless idol
- Not coming as slaves

### B. Not of this world

#### 1. Infinite

- Unbounded by time/space (Psalm 139)
- A perfect Father (not affected by the sin that afflicts us)

#### 2. Eternally "present"

- He neither slumbers nor sleeps (Psalm 121:4)

### C. A prodigal God (lavish, extravagant)

#### 1. A Father to Jesus

- Jesus knows God as "Father" (John 6:40; 8:37, 38, 54; Matthew 11:25; 26:39; Luke 23:46)
- One notable exception (Matthew 27:46)

NOTE: He teaches disciples to pray "Our Father..." because that is how He prays!

#### 2. A Father to His children

##### a. Made in His image

- Father of everyone?
- A Father to the redeemed

##### b. Father of the bride

- Christ takes us to Himself as a bride
- He brings us into relationship with the Father

##### c. Adopted heirs

- Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 1:12; Romans 8:15,16)

#### 3. Perfect access to our Father

- He is rarely called "Father" in the Old Testament
- One beautiful exception - Isaiah 63:16
- The picture of Our Father comes from His Word

## II. A Hallowed Name

### A. His name revealed

#### 1. More than a "title"

2. Revealing His character - Exodus 34:5-7
- B. His Name "hallowed"
  - To make holy, sanctify; to treat as holy, hold in reverence
  - The positive expression of the 3rd
  - Praying that His character is made known
  - 1. Through the Son (John 12:27, 28)
    - Jesus hallowed the name of God
    - Through perfect obedience and submission
  - 2. Through the "sons and daughters" (the bride)
    - a. In prayer
      - In us (1 Peter 3:15)
      - In the body of Christ
      - In the world
    - b. In action
      - Care in the use of His name
      - Attention to His Word
      - In a holy life
      - In suffering and self-denial

### III. Worthy of Praise

- A. First things first
  - Praise for Who He is
  - Putting God on His throne
  - Praying His Word
- B. Praise changes us
  - Getting our eyes off ourselves
  - Bringing peace to our hearts