

I. Honoring the Father's position

God is our FATHER.

Ideal Father (which not all of us have):

A. Security

B. Provision

Matthew 7:9-11

C. Intimacy

Joy - in thy presence is fullness of joy; delights over His people

Who is in heaven

D. Accountability

- Must be rightly related to Him to call Him Father. Jesus always called Him Father, except on one occasion...hanging on the cross, bearing our sins. If you still bear your own sins you are not rightly related to God. You cannot call Him Father.
- GOSPEL - born outside His family. Adopted. Rearranged priorities (new family)

II. Honoring the Father's priorities - 6:9-10

A. His name

- Name = character
- *Prayer that is...* True to God's character and personality
 - o for prayer to be powerful, it must be in line with the Bible
- If I know who God is, and what He values, I will pray differently

B. His will (Your kingdom, Your will)

- Luke 22:42
 - o What is so powerful about this prayer, this template, is that it can transform us.

III. Honoring the Father's personality - 6:11

A. Ask God for your needs

- 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- Proverbs 30:8-9
- Matthew 6:26, 28-30
- Even the "little things"?
 - o Woman said to G. Campbell Morgan, "I don't bring the little things to God. I only bring the big things to God." "Lady, anything you bring to God is little."

B. Ask God for your desires - 1 Peter 5:6-7

- Be careful that I don't confuse needs and desires
- Be careful to understand why God might not say YES immediately

Why don't we receive everything we ask for?

1. We have sin in our lives – James 4:3
2. Others have sin in their lives
 - You are praying for a friend to repent or to trust Christ; God does not force repentance or belief
3. God wants us to keep asking
 - Matthew 7:7
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
4. Not the best for God’s kingdom, or for us; or timing wrong
 - End prayer casually: “in Jesus’ name” = in submission to His will
5. We don’t ask – James 4:2

Application

- Practice prayer today
- Consecrate yourself to God’s will
 - Is there anything you are unwilling to give to Him?
 - Weekly schedule
 - Personal relationships
 - Career choices
- Make two lists
 - Needs
 - Desires
- Begin to pray specifically

Summary

Where do we begin the conversation? Since God is God (and we are not!), we should begin by finding out what matters most to Him.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- a. When you begin to pray, what comes first to your mind?
- b. Do you think God cares about what we pray for? Why or why not?
- c. Do you think God wants to hear about the small, insignificant things in our lives? Why or why not?