

Sovereign Grace Church
“Our Father Who Art in Heaven” outline
February 25, 2018

HC 119-121

As we turn our attention to the Heidelberg's teaching on prayer the thought occurs to me that some things are just much easier talking about than doing. I think that prayer is one of those things. I find prayer easy to talk about but much harder to do. And it is the doing of prayer that is the whole point of talking about it. Here are some questions to think about: How often do you pray? Is prayer kind of an extra duty that you perform because you're a Christian & Christian's are supposed to pray? Or do you find prayer to be as natural and interesting as talking to a good friend? Our teaching on prayer should be understood as enabling our doing of prayer.

The Heidelberg begins its teaching on the Lord's Prayer by discussing to whom prayer is to be made. why it is important to make our prayer to Him and where the God to whom we pray resides and its significance.

1. Our Father #120

- **God as our Father**
 - **Our Father and the Triune God**
Gal. 4: 6; Isa 9: 6

 - **The Universal Fatherhood of God**
Mal. 2: 10; Isa 64: 8; John 8: 44

 - **The Redemptive Fatherhood God**
Jn 20: 17; I Pet. 1: 3; Jn 1: 12; Rom. 8: 15, 23; Eph. 1: 5

- **Our Father as the Giver of all things Good**
Matt. 7: 7-11; Lk 18: 1-8

2. Who Art in Heaven #121

Psm 104:2; 33:6; 103:19; 113: 5-7; Ac. 17: 24-25; Rom. 8: 31-32

3. Applications

- **Our understanding of Who God Is makes a difference in prayer.**

- **Relationship vs. Duty in Prayer**

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. What does it mean for God to be your Father? Why do you think Jesus began His prayer the way He did? Is it wrong then to pray directly to Jesus? How does ones experience with earthly father's affect their understanding of their heavenly Father? How can a person's image of the true God become distorted by their earthly experiences?**
- 2. What sorts of things do you ask for in prayer? What are your requests motivated by? What sorts of things CAN they be motivated by? Do you pray for yourself? Why is it important to pray for yourself? If it isn't important to pray for yourself, why isn't it? How can Solomon's prayer be a good example for us? Why do some people not want others to pray for them?**
- 3. Do you think of prayer as a vital element in the Christian life? What difference in your life as a believer would occur if you quit praying altogether?! How can we make prayer more central in our lives? Are there any spiritual disciplines that might contribute to enhancing our prayer life?**
- 4. Where is heaven? Where is what Jesus referred to as the “kingdom of the heavens”? What did He mean when He said that this Kingdom was “at hand.” How do we distinguish between God's infinity and His being present in Heaven?**
- 5. Other questions you have:**