

Sovereign Grace Church
“Hallowed Be Thy Name” outline
March 24, 2018

HC 122

This morning we will return to our consideration of the last section of the Heidelberg Catechism which is on prayer. The Lord's Prayer consists of six petitions and the first one is the subject of this morning's message.

We are to request that God's name be hallowed or recognized as holy. The Old Covenant Hebrews were so rigorous in their effort to abide by this petition that they refused to even name the name of God, which was Yahweh (I AM), for fear of uttering the name in an unworthy manner. But Jesus would probably have made short work of this worry if He had chosen to address it in the Sermon on the Mount. After all, our words have a way of following our thoughts and our thoughts are not so easily managed, though just as convicting. So this morning we will look at the Catechism's teaching on just how we do hallow God's name in our prayers and conversations.

1. Definitions

- “hallowed”: to honor or proclaim as holy

- “name”: not an identity badge so much as a recognition of character

2. To Hallow God's Name means to Know Him.

- to know God is to know Him interactively, not merely by description
Jer. 9: 23-24; 31: 33-34; John 17: 3

- the problem of theological idolatry

3. To Hallow God's Name means to Praise Him for His Works and Character.

- **in Creation**
Rom. 1: 19-20; Psm 104: 24; Psm 36: 5

- **in Redemption**
II Cor. 5: 21; Titus 3: 5; John 17: 9

4. To Hallow God's Name means to Live our Lives IN HIM and to become LIKE HIM in our thoughts, words and deeds. Matt. 5: 16

Questions for Conversation and Discussion

- 1. When we pray that God's name be hallowed for what are we actually praying? Are we praying that God would hallow His own name or that other's would recognize what they are uttering when they utter His name? In public settings outside of church how often do you hear God's name uttered? Is it uttered in a hallowed way? How is it uttered?**
- 2. How is our desire to know more about God related to our personal interaction with Him? Does our primary concern to interact with Him mean that it is not important to know who we think He is or what He is like? How does our understanding of what God is like affect our interaction with Him? Is it possible to interact with God without knowing something about Him? Can we interact with God without desiring to know more about Him?**
- 3. What do you think about the Jewish practice of not uttering the name of God for fear of uttering it in an unworthy way? Do you think it was effective?**
- 4. When you consider God's works of creation and redemption are you drawn to praise Him? How do even atheists inadvertently praise God when they marvel at the wonders of the Universe? Why do the atheists praises of the marvels of creation seem to fall so far short? How is God praised in our redemption? Do your prayers and conversation reflect this wonder & admiration of God for His works?**