



Sermon Questions

April 7th, 2024 | Scripture: Matthew 6:5-13 (Our Father)

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Note down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Core Questions

1. Our conception of who God is directly affects **why** we go to Him in prayer. Describe the default picture that comes into your mind when you think of God. Was it something like an absent father, an unjust judge, a vending machine, an overprotective parent, or a forgiving friend? How would seeing God as a loving Father change **why** we pray?
2. Conversely, our conception of who we are to God changes **how** we approach Him in prayer. How does seeing yourself as a child of God and a creature change **how** you approach him in prayer?
3. Unless we start with God, our prayer lives will be rather boring and self-centered. How does starting with God change **what** we pray for?

Inward Grace in Action

4. Seeing God as Father transforms the why, how, and what of our prayer lives, yet we can often have complex relationships with our earthly fathers that make it difficult to come to our heavenly Father as we should in prayer. What aspects of your relationship with your earthly father might the Lord be inviting you to heal from so that you can come to Him more fully in prayer?

Outward Grace in Action

5. Seeing God as Father enables you to hand over to God your needs and sins with greater assurance, confidence, and hope. What needs in your life and the lives of others can you plan to pray for and who can you plan to pray with this week with this renewed confidence?

Additional Resources:

Essay: [Here's an essay on the subject of God as Father](#), tracing the development of the concept through scripture and discussing implications.

Theology: On the next page, you'll find three questions from the Westminster Larger Catechism, helping us think through the persons of God—Father, Son, and Spirit—and how scripture talks about this mystery.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 14:1-2
- Psalm 104
- Jeremiah 31:17-20
- John 8:31-47
- Romans 6:1-11
- 1 John 3:1-11

Serve: MOPS brings many new people into the life of our church. Could you help with childcare so more families can come?

Pray: Pray for all those experiencing fatherlessness to find delight in their true, heavenly father.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

Westminster Larger Catechism

The Westminster Larger Catechism (1647) is a goldmine of concise theological clarity and a key part of our theological tradition. While the Shorter Catechism lends itself to memorization, the Larger Catechism is a great reference resource when you're thinking about theological questions. The Westminster Standards (the Confession and Catechisms) are consciously trying to summarize the teaching of scripture, so you can trace their reasoning through the appended scripture references.

The Trinity is notoriously hard to explain simply, but this is one of the clearest summaries ever made. Simple is not easy! But it is valuable.

Q. 9. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There be three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties.

1 John 5:7; Matt. 3:16-17; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 10:30.

Q. 10. What are the personal properties of the three persons in the Godhead?

A. It is proper to the Father to beget the Son, and to the Son to be begotten of the Father, and to the Holy Ghost to proceed from the Father and the Son from all eternity.

Heb. 1:5-6, 8; John 1:14, 18; John 15:26; Gal. 4:6.

Q. 11. How doth it appear that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father?

A. The Scriptures manifest that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father, ascribing unto them such names, attributes, works, and worship, as are proper to God only.

Isa. 6:3, 5, 8; John 12:41; Acts 28:25; 1 John 5:20; Acts 5:3-4; John 1:1; Isa. 9:6; John 2:24-25; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Col. 1:16; Gen. 1:2; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14.