

1 Sunday Evening, May 28, 2023
1 Timothy 2:1–3
WCF Chapter XXI - Of Religious Worship, and the Sabbath-day (3)

3. Prayer with thanksgiving is a special part of religious worship and is required by God of all men. In order that prayer may be accepted, it is to be made in the name of the Son, by the help of his Spirit, according to his will. Prayer is to be offered with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance. If vocal, it must be offered in a language that is understood.

4. Prayer is to be made for things that are lawful and for all kinds of men now alive or who will live at a later time. But it is wrong to pray for the dead or for those known to have committed the sin unto death.

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I. The Prominence of Acceptable Prayer Sect 3A

A. Prayer's Central Place in Old Covenant Worship Rev. 5:8; 2 Chron. 7:15; Isa. 56:6–8; Act 16:13

B. Prayer's Central Place in New Covenant Worship

Ac. 1:14; 2:42; 4:23–24; 4:31; 1 Cor. 14:13; 1 Tim. 2

II. Three Requirements for Acceptable Prayer Sect 3A

A. In the Name of the Son Jn. 14:13–14

B. With the Help of the Holy Spirit Rom. 8:26

C. According to God's Will 1 Jn. 5:14–15

III. Nine Descriptions of Acceptable Prayer Sect 3B

A. Prayer with thanksgiving Phil. 4:6; Ps. 100:4

B. With Understanding Eccl. 5:1–2

C. With Reverence Heb. 12:28; Ps. 47:7

D. With Humility Gen. 18:27; Lk. 18:13–14;

E. With Fervency Jas. 5:16

F. With Faith Jas. 1:6–7; Mk. 11:24

G. With Love Matt. 6:12, 14–15

H. With Perseverance Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:18

I. With a Known Language 1 Cor. 14:14; 27–28

- IV. Requests in Acceptable Prayer Sect 4
- A. What Does it Mean We Are to Pray for All Things That Are Lawful? 1 Jn. 5:14
 - B. What Does it Mean We Are to Pray for ‘All Kinds of Men?’ 1 Tim. 2:1–3
 - C. What Does it Mean We Are to Pray for Men Now Alive or Who Will Live at a Later Time? 2 Sam. 7:29; Ruth 4:12; Jn. 17:20
 - D. What Does it Mean We Are Not to Pray for the Physically Dead? 2 Sam. 12:22; Lk. 16:26
 - E. What Does it Mean We Are Not to Pray for the Spiritually Dead? 1 Jn. 5:16; Jer. 7:12–16; Heb. 10:26–29
- V. Our Responsibility for Acceptable Prayer
- A. Responsibility of the Minister / Elder to Prepare for Prayer
 - B. Responsibility of the Congregation to Join in Prayer

Quotes

“Prayer rightly begun springs from faith, and faith, from hearing God’s Word. Let us learn that God in his promises is set before us as if he were a willing debtor.”
John Calvin

“In the American Religion, as in ancient Gnosticism, there is almost no sense of God’s difference from us— in other words, his majesty, sovereignty, self-existence, and holiness. God is my buddy or my inmost experience, or the power-source for living my best life now. God is not strange—that is, holy—and is certainly not a judge. He does not evoke fear, awe, or a sense of terrifying and disorienting beauty. . . . To borrow a nice phrase from William Placher, it represents ‘the domestication of transcendence.’ God is no longer a problem for us.”
Horton

“Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.”
Corrie Ten Boom

“That man bears God’s image means much more than that he is spirit and possesses understanding, will, etc. It means above all that he is disposed for communion with God, that all the capacities of his soul can act in a way that corresponds to their destiny only if they rest in God.”
Geerhardus Vos

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship does not. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man.”
John Piper

“In an assembly of public worship, the triune God is not only the One to whom worship is directed, but also the One who is active in the worship of the church. Through his public ordinances, the covenant God actively works to engage his people in communion with himself. In public worship, God communes with his people, and they with him, in a manner which expresses the close relationships of the Father and his redeemed children, of the Son and his beloved bride, and of the Holy Spirit and the living temple in which he dwells.” From the OPC Directory of Worship (p 125, Nature of Public Worship)