

## "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name." – Matthew 6:9

When Jesus Christ sat preaching the Sermon on the Mount to His disciples He gave them a model prayer. He started by saying, "After this manner therefore pray..." The idea Christ set forth was – pray along these lines. Not, "Repeat these exact words and that is prayer." Many Christian denominations have just taken this model prayer, sometimes called the Lord's Prayer, and have recited it over and over to the point that it is done "zombielike" and has lost its spiri-

tual meaning. Jesus Christ taught us not to just repeat prayers heard or prayers read with the mindset that we actually prayed, because that's not prayer. How do we know? Well just before -Christ taught in Matthew 6:7 "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." So Christ gives His disciples a warning about repetitive prayers just before He gives them the model prayer. He does so simply because humanity is both religious by nature and spiritually lazy. Christ knows our human tendencies and that we can easily go through

the motions of prayer using scripture and fool ourselves, and it only becomes the repeating of religious rhetoric.

At the beginning of this model prayer, the first foundational truth that Christ instructed His followers to do was to address God as Father. If this does not amaze you then maybe you don't know that much about God as you think? You see, this should rock our world because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is instructing His followers to call the Great Majestic Maker of everything, the Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, the Almighty God that gives life and breath to all - FATHER! Understand that God created the animals, but the animals do not have this privilege to have God as Father. God created all the heavenly angels in all their beauty, but the angels do not have this privilege to have God as Father. Yes it is even true from God's word that not every human being has the privilege to call God Father. Liberal religion for years have taught the "Universal Fatherhood of God," which means that God is everybody's Father. However, the Bible teaches that there are "children of God" and "children of the devil" (1 John 3:10). What this means is that only those who have belief and faith in

Whose Father?

God's Son, Jesus Christ, as their Lord, Savior, King, and Redeemer have been adopted into the family of God (Galatians 3:6-9,26). The New Testament teaches that Jesus Christ paid the adoption price for repentant sinners to become children of God, and the adoption price paid was His sinless blood shed upon the cross. In essence, Jesus, the Son of God, is giving those who have faith in Him the privilege to share His Father. Whose Father? Jesus' Father - and our Father!

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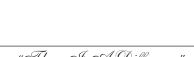
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