

Lord's Prayer : Part 2

Mathew 6 : 5 – 8

Last week's lesson was concerned with two points about God as Our Father.

1. We become children of God through redemption by the blood (life) or Jesus.
2. God loves and cares for His children far more than we can imagine or deserve

Today's lesson considers two more consequences of being children of God.

3. God's children are called to be obedient and holy

1 Peter 1 : 14 – 19

- We are to live as "obedient children" of God.
- We are to no longer live in our sinful ways, instead we are to be holy / set apart for God.

Key point : Obedience is a common theme of the Bible - using a variety of language and symbols, it is clear that the only children of God are obedient children.

1 John 1 : 5 - 10

- God's light is associated with His radiant presence, love, truth and purity.
- Since God is light, we need to also be in the light to have fellowship with him.
- If we live our lives in the darkness of sin, we cannot have fellowship with God.

Key point : Walking in the light does not require that we do not sin – we know that we will sin. But walking in the light requires that we confess our sins, believing that God who is faithful and just, will forgive us. If we continually walk in the darkness, not confessing and repenting of sin, we separate ourselves from God.

4. God disciplines his children

Hebrews 12 : 7 - 11

- The word discipline does not refer to God beating us when we do wrong - its meaning is closer to that of training and educating.
- God puts us through challenging times to train us to be His people, and also to let us know that we are His true sons and daughters.
- He disciplines us for our own good – to become more holy or to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus.

Key point : We need to be thankful when God puts us through tough times – He views us as true children of His and wants to train us to be obedient to Him and to become more like Jesus.

James 1 : 2 - 4

- Trials are opportunities to develop perseverance, and perseverance helps us to mature and become complete.
- “Complete” refers to a complete obedience to God and a wholehearted dedication to Him.

Conclusion

God abounds in love for us as His children. He loves us far more than we can imagine or deserve. With that love comes care and protection. But he expects us to obey Him – the only child of God is an obedient child who walks in the light. Not a perfect child since we all sin, but an obedient one who confesses sin and repents on an ongoing basis.

God also loves us so much that He will teach and train us by putting us through difficult challenging times. We need times like those to mature in Christ and to learn complete obedience to God.

Challenge

**The first century church prayed the Lord’s Prayer three times a day.
Let us pray this prayer at least once every day this week, thinking carefully about
the words as we pray.**