

New City Catechism

Question 39: With what attitude should we pray?

Answer: With love, perseverance, and gratefulness.

Philippians 4:6

Read the question and answer and commit them to memory.

Ask: Why does it matter what our attitude is when we pray? Get some answers from family members...

Jesus must have thought our attitude in prayer was important because he addressed it several times in the Gospels.

Read Matthew 6:5-6.

- What does Jesus warn against?
- What does he say we should do instead?
- How can our prayers be prideful? Give some examples.

Our answer gives 3 attitudes we are called to have as we approach God in prayer.

1. Love

- Why is it important that we have an attitude of love? (If you love someone, you want to spend time with them. You want to get to know them. You want to talk to them).
- How well would the relationship go if you had a bad attitude every time you opened your mouth? Prayer is spending time with our Creator who knows everything about us and loves us anyway. We are to have an attitude of love.
- Thinking about love, read Matthew 6:5-6 again. What do we learn about love in prayer? (it's personal, intimate). Jesus knew the importance of his love relationship with his Father and made time for prayer. See Luke 6:12 for another example.

2. Perseverance

- Why do you think this might be important?
- Read Luke 18:1. Why do you think it's so easy for us to give up in praying? (Our flesh is weak, we don't get the answers we want, we don't understand/see things the way God does).

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- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 17. What does Paul tell us to do?

3. Grateful

- Now read 1 Thess. 5:16-17 again, but add v.18 this time. What does Paul say is God's will?
- Finally Philippians 4:6. What does Paul say here about prayer?

Conclude by asking God to change our hearts toward prayer. Ask that the Holy Spirit would fill our hearts with love, perseverance, and gratefulness toward our God.

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