

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 189. What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A The preface of the Lord's Prayer (contained in these words, *Our Father which art in heaven,*¹) teacheth us, when we pray, to draw near to God with confidence of his fatherly goodness, and our interest therein;² with reverence, and all other childlike dispositions,³ heavenly affections,⁴ and due apprehensions of his sovereign power, majesty, and gracious condescension:⁵ as also, to pray with and for others.⁶

1. Matt. 6:9; Luke 11:2. 2. Ps. 103:13; Luke 11:13; Rom. 8:15. 3. Isa. 64:9. 4. Col. 3:1-2; Ps. 123:1; Lam. 3:41. 5. Isa. 63:15-16; Neh. 1:4-6; Ps. 113:4-6. 6. Acts 12:5; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; Eph. 6:18.

Q 190. What do we pray for in the first petition?

A In the first petition, (which is, *Hallowed be thy name,*¹) acknowledging the utter inability and indisposition that is in ourselves and all men to honor God aright,² we pray, that God would by his grace enable and incline us and others to know, to acknowledge, and highly to esteem him,³ his titles,⁴ attributes,⁵ ordinances, Word,⁶ works, and whatsoever he is pleased to make himself known by;⁷ and to glorify him in thought, word,⁸ and deed:⁹ that he would prevent and remove atheism,¹⁰ ignorance,¹¹ idolatry,¹² profaneness,¹³ and whatsoever is dishonorable to him;¹⁴ and, by his overruling providence, direct and dispose of all things to his own glory.¹⁵

1. Matt. 6:9; Luke 11:2. 2. 2 Cor. 3:5; Ps. 51:15. 3. Ps. 67:2-3; Ps. 99:1-3. 4. Ps. 83:18. 5. Ps. 86:10-13, 15. 6. 2 Thess. 3:1; Ps. 147:19-20; Ps. 138:1-3; 2 Cor. 2:14-15. 7. Ps. 145; Ps. 8. 8. Ps. 103:1; Ps. 19:14. 9. Phil. 1:9, 11; Ps. 100:3-4. 10. Ps. 67:1-4. 11. Eph. 1:17-18. 12. Ps. 97:7. 13. Ps. 74:18, 22-23. 14. 2 Kings 19:15-16. 15. 2 Chron. 20:6; 10-12; Rom. 11:33-36; Rev. 4:11; Pss. 83; 140:4, 8.

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