

## The Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 46

### 120. Why did Christ command us to address God thus: "Our Father"?

To awaken in us at the very beginning of our prayer that childlike reverence for and trust in God, which are to be the ground of our prayer, namely, that God has become our Father through Christ, and will much less deny us what we ask of Him in faith than our parents refuse us earthly things.<sup>1</sup>

[1] Matt. 7:9–11; Lk. 11:11–13; \*1 Pet. 1:17; \*Isa. 63:16.

### 121. Why is it added, "in heaven"?

That we might have no earthly thought of the heavenly majesty of God,<sup>1</sup> and from His almighty power expect all things necessary for body and soul.<sup>2</sup>

[1] Jer. 23:23–24; Acts 17:24–25, 27. [2] Rom. 10:12; \*1 Kgs. 8:28; \*Ps. 115:3.

.....  
*... when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this...*

Matthew 6. 5-9

<sup>26</sup> *And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. <sup>27</sup> And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." <sup>28</sup> And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. <sup>29</sup> And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.*

*And at the time of the offering, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. <sup>37</sup> Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."*

1 Kings 18. 26-29, 36-37

### Q&A 120

1. The audience
2. Our attitude

3. Our confidence
4. Our expectation

*If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

Matt. 7.11

*As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

Psalm 103. 13

*For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us,  
and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father,  
our Redeemer from of old is your name.*

Isaiah 63. 16

*Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?  
Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my  
hands ...*

Isaiah 49. 15-16

## **Q&A 121**

*“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.  
Jeremiah 23. 23-24*

*The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*

Acts 17. 24-25