

A Culture of Expectation and Dependency (Matthew 6:5-15)

Culture is a set of shared values, goals and practices that characterize a group of people. In other words it is a way of life. Since Jesus' way of life was marked by prayer eventually his disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. Jesus gave them a prayer to run with that has the ability to shape our lives today, creating a culture of expectation and dependency, rooted in authentic relationship and love.

1. A Culture of Expectation (Matthew 6:9-10)

V5 Don't be like the hypocrites = actors who put on masks to play different roles

V9 "This, then, is how you should pray..."

"Our Father" We're invited to call Him Father. Where do we get this right? John 1:12; Galatians 4:6
J.I. Packer: "He's my Father – and He's God in heaven; He's God in heaven and He's my Father...Grasp this or let us grasp you; then tell God what you feel about it; and that will be the worship that our Lord wanted to evoke when He gave us this thought-pattern..."

"In heaven" He is the sovereign and self-existent God who is transcendent – high above all.

"Hallowed be Your name" "God, let Your name be acknowledged, honored, respected and revered."

"Your Kingdom Come" His Kingdom is a present reality and a future hope. He rules in the lives of men, women and children who trust in Him, and yet it will be perfected at the return of Jesus. 1 Peter 1:13

"Your will be done" This is expressed faith and love in our Heavenly Father

Luke 11:5-13 Be PERSISTENT. KEEP going to him in prayer.

2. A culture of dependency (Matthew 6:11-13)

"Give us our daily bread" We have the allusion we're in control!

"Forgive us our debts (sin)" So much freedom here! In light of the forgiveness we've received we have absolutely no right to hold others' sin against them. VV14-15! Ephesians 4:31-5:2

"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil (the evil one)" It's not IF but when!

Jesus prayed in the early morning while it was still dark (Mark 1:35), would often retreat to a desolate place to pray. Jesus prayed after times of intense ministry (Mark 6:45-46), before making a major decision (Luke 6:12-13), with regularity (Luke 22:39), with honesty (Luke 22:39-44), for himself, for others; for you and me. (John 17)

Core Desires #1: "Expectation and Dependency - We believe God will do great things for our good and His glory. We want to trust him and lean on him through prayer in every way."

QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 6:8. Sum up what Jesus is saying.
This doesn't mean we can't ever pray out loud or together. The early church did that all time!
Jesus is getting at motives. What should our motives be when praying?
2. Read Matthew 6:9-15. What stands out to you in this prayer?
3. Have you ever considered letting the individual phrases of this prayer launch you into more prayer? How might it help you focus? How might it help you pray in ways you wouldn't otherwise?
4. Where do we get the right to call God our "Father"? Consider John 1:12; Galatians 4:6 How should this effect the way you approach God? See Luke 11:5-13
5. When we pray "Your Kingdom come" what are we expecting God to do right now? And what are we anticipating / looking forward to?
6. Why is it hypocritical for Christians to harbor bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness? How does praying Matthew 6:12, from the heart, help you walk in freedom?
7. What hindrances are there to prayer? What will it require of you to pray?
8. How can we move forward in "a culture of expectation and dependency"? What will it produce?
This prayer teaches us how to live out a new culture, the Jesus way of life. What one thing from this prayer will you apply immediately?