

June 9, 2013

## The First Petition

Hallowed be your name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy by itself, but we pray in this petition that we too may keep it holy.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when his Word is taught in its truth and purity and we as children of God lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But whoever teaches and lives contrary to God's Word dishonors God's name among us. Keep us from doing this, dear Father in heaven!

1. With the First Petition, Jesus teaches us to pray that we might keep God's name holy. God's name is his titles. List eight different titles that God uses for himself in the Bible. Share the significance or meaning of each of these titles.

2. God's name is also his reputation—everything that he has revealed to us about himself on the pages of Scripture. What does the following passage tell us about God?

“The LORD . . . proclaimed his name, . . . ‘The LORD, the LORD, the com- passionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation’” (Exodus 34:5-7).

3. Martin Luther reminds us that God's name is kept holy when we teach God's Word in its truth and purity and when we live our lives according to that Word. Explain how these two things will serve to honor God and keep his name holy.

4. Martin Luther also reminds us that God's name is dishonored when anyone teaches and lives contrary to his Word. Explain how teaching and living contrary to God's Word serve to dishonor God and his name. Give examples.

5. How did King David's sins of adultery and murder serve to dishonor God's name?

6. Agree or disagree: If a church teaches that Jesus Christ is the Savior, we should not be overly concerned if that church also harbors false doctrine.

7. React: One of the most often-stated reasons unchurched people give for staying away from the church is because they see all the hypocrites in the church.

8. What is the relationship between the First Petition and the Second Commandment? between the First Petition and the Third Commandment?

Luther said:

“It brings shame and disgrace on an earthly father to have a child go bad and be antagonistic to him in speech and conduct, so that because of the child he must suffer contempt and ridicule. Just so also God is dishonored if we who bear the heavenly Father’s name and have received all manner of blessing from him teach, speak, or live otherwise than as his godly children, with the result that he must hear people speak of us not as children of God but as children of the devil.” (Tappert, pp. 425,426.)

Closing Prayer

Lord, we’re ashamed of the dishonor we’ve brought on you and your name by the way we’ve lived our lives. Forgive us for Jesus’ sake. Empower us daily to fight the good fight, to let our light shine before others, to share the message of your Word in its truth and purity, and thus to glorify your name. Amen.

At home

Memorize the First Petition and its parts.