

Lord's Day 46

Name: _____

God has revealed His names to us that we may speak *to* Him, and *of* Him, in reverence. The model prayer Jesus gives in response to the request of His disciples, "Lord, teach us to pray," begins with the words, "Our Father." Immediately it is added, "which art in heaven." The importance of both these phrases in the address of prayer must be fully understood. Although we may use other names of God when we call upon Him, we are always to call upon Him in the confidence that He is our Father in heaven.

A. The Fatherhood of God (Question and Answer 120).

1. Sometimes it is said that all men can call God "Father" because God has made all men. However, this answer of the Catechism shows that prayer is not based on creation, but on something very special, something that only the child of God has.

a. God is become our Father _____. The idea of adoption is implied here. God adopts us into His family through the saving work of Christ.

b. Thus, the foundation of prayer is _____ and _____.

2. Read carefully the last part of the answer.

a. Do earthly parents give their children everything they ask for? _____

Give reasons:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

b. Will God give us everything we ask for? _____ Will He give us everything we ask for *in true faith*? _____ Explain: _____

3. If we feel our prayers are not being answered, what are some things we ought to do?

a. _____

b. _____

4. Read Luke 11:9-13. This passage makes clear that our great need is to receive the

_____.

B. The heavenly majesty of our Father (Question and Answer 121).

1. The name "Father" brings God very close to us. Lest we form an earthly conception of God, we are taught to add the words "_____."

a. How are we to form the correct conception of God? _____

b. What do the words "which art in heaven" teach us about God? _____

c. Why ought we to refer to God by the pronouns "Thee" and "Thou," rather than "You" and "Your"? _____

d. An earthly conception of God amounts to an _____.

2. To our heavenly Father belongs all power and might by which He is able to provide all things necessary for body and soul. Answer True or False:

___ a. Sometimes God withholds what we ask for because He is unable to give.

___ b. We will never be able to say, "Now I completely understand God."

___ c. For the needs of the body we look to our boss; for the needs of the soul we look to God.

___ d. God knows our true needs far better than we do.

___ e. We may expect all our needs from God even though we do not pray for them.