



The Grace to Forgive

Matthew 6:12-15
Pastor John Sloan

Introduction: In Jesus' instructions to his disciples concerning prayer, He reveals God the Father's top three priorities: His name, kingdom, and will. Consequently, our primary emphases in prayer ought to be theocentric (God-centered) not man-centered. However, Jesus wants us to know in the second half of the Lord's Prayer that it's perfectly acceptable to pray for *our* needs as well. And our needs are much deeper than physical provisions.

Three "We" Petitions (Part II)

01.

02.

03.

Lord, Teach
Us to Pray



1. "There's no forgiveness for one who doesn't forgive." Is that a true statement (see Mt. 6:14-15)? Explain your answer.

2. Is there someone in your life that you've had a hard time forgiving? How will you ready your heart to forgive?

3. For those of us in Christ, what was our condition when God loved us (see four descriptors in Rom. 5:6-10)? How does that reality compel us to love others who seem unlovable?

4. Martin Luther was accustomed to saying: God doesn't love sinners because they are attractive. Sinners are attractive to God because He loves them. What do you think he meant?

5. What does the word *temptation* refer to in Mt. 6:13?

6. How do you typically approach temptation: with confidence in your own strength or complete dependence on God? How might you grow in this area?

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“Anyone who knows the Lord’s Prayer knows that we ask to be forgiven as we forgive. But hearing the call to forgive is different than knowing how to practice forgiveness at home and in the world.” *Celestin Musekura*



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01. Inherent in the plea to God for forgiveness is the divine-empowered pledge to forgive others.



Lord, Teach
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For while we were still weak, at the
right time Christ died for the ungodly.
For one will scarcely die for a
righteous person—though perhaps
for a good person one would dare even



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to die—but God shows his love for us
in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we
have now been justified by his blood,
much more shall we be saved by him

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from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. *Romans 5:6-10*



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02. Forgiveness is a grace rooted in Jesus' atoning cross-work, but it's a grace that was never intended to be hoarded.



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“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.” *James 1:13*



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03. The daily cry of the Christian is for
preventing grace and *assisting*
grace.



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**“Life is a web of trials and temptations
but only one of them can ever be fatal:
the temptation to think that it is by**

Lord, Teach
Us to Pray



further, better and more aggressive
living that we can have life.”

Robert Capon



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Us to Pray