

# ***“Prayer as Worship”***

January 1, 2023

## **INTRODUCTION**

*What does it mean that God is our Father?*

### **Matthew 6:5-9a**

<sup>5</sup> *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.*

<sup>6</sup> *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

<sup>7</sup> *And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

<sup>9</sup> *“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven...*

### **What Does it Mean that God is our Father?**

It means Intimacy and Authority

He has CHOSEN and ADOPTED us (Ephesians 1:3-6)

He COMFORTS us (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

He COUNSELS us (James 1:5)

He PROVIDES for us (2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Philippians 4:19)

He STRENGTHENS us (Ephesians 3:16; Colossians 1:11)

He CORRECTS and DISCIPLINES us (Hebrews 12:7-11)

He is GRACIOUS and UNDERSTANDING with us (Psalm 103:13-14)

He FORGIVES us when we fail (1 John 1:9)

He LOVES us more than we can possibly imagine (1 John 3:1; Ephesians 3:14-19)

### **Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion**

1. In Matthew 6:5-8, Jesus outlines two major pitfalls that people seem to fall into when it comes to prayer. What are they?
2. What is Jesus teaching instead about true prayer in these verses?
3. Why does the phrase "Our Father" denote both intimacy and authority? How does this impact that way we should pray?
4. Meditate on the many ways God has been a father to us. Which aspects are most meaningful to you and why?

*If you wish to join the church in the 40 Days of Prayer go to <https://cmalliance.org/40days/> and SIGN UP. You will receive a weekly email (on Saturdays) giving you links to the upcoming week's daily devotional.*