

Our

Jason A. Graham: The Disciples' Prayer Series

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV) ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

This prayer, taught to the Disciples by Jesus, can lead us into revelation about God and about ourselves.

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Our

Why did Jesus use the word "Our" to begin this prayer? This is not a teaching on the meaning of the original Greek word. It is simply a meditation on what Jesus could have wanted us to take from this word in view of the rest of scripture. I believe he wants us to have:

- A corporate mindset
- Oneness
- An understanding of God's heart and purpose

God's Desire

The very fact that Jesus told His disciples to begin their prayer with "Our" reveals the fact that He wanted them, and now us, to have a Corporate mindset. We have all probably heard it said that Christianity is **not about a Religion, but it is about a Personal Relationship**. I would say that this statement is inaccurate, or at least incomplete. I believe that

it is about a Personal Relationship within the confines of Community. We are to be One as the Father, Son, and Spirit are One (**Deuteronomy 6:4**—Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!).

John 17:11, 21 (NIV) –The Lord’s Prayer

¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one.

²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

- It was Jesus’ earnest desire for us to be ONE in Him.
- Perhaps this is the only prayer of Jesus that is yet to be answered in its fullness
- His church being one would be the ultimate representation of God on earth.

Ephesians 1:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

- It is God’s ULTIMATE PURPOSE to bring All Things into ONE in JESUS CHRIST.

What Does this Unity do for Us?

Individually?

- It frees us from the burden of self-importance.
- It actually gives us the context in which to express our spiritual gifts.

The truth is no man is an island. And we all affect and are affected by one another. The man who is burdened down with an overwhelming sense of self-importance fails to see the place that he has in the body, and can have an exaggerated sense of his own abilities.

Like the fly in Aesop’s fable “The Fly on the Wheel”, who looked back from his perch on a chariot and proclaimed, “My, what a dust storm I’m causing!”—the man who does not see himself in humility, will also gain a great capacity for self-deception.

Learning to walk in Unity in the body of Christ is the context in which we can truly learn Humility, and learn how we fit in the body, not stand out from it—as so many try to do.

1 Peter 5:5-6 (NIV) ⁵ Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Humility is not about seeing yourself lowly, it is about seeing yourself rightly. And there are few circumstances that aid us in this process more than learning to walk in unity with others.

Corporately?

God wants to bless us—Unity Gives Him grounds to Command that Blessing on us.

2 Corinthians 13:11 (NKJV) Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

1 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

Psalms 133:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ A song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* For brethren to dwell together in unity! ² *It is* like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. ³ *It is* like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing-- Life forevermore.

John 13:34-35 (NIV) ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- If you dig a little deeper into this, what is it really saying? The world will recognize Jesus through us when we walk in love (implicitly includes unity).

More Importantly, What does it do for God?

Matthew 3:3 (NKJV) For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'"

- We can be a John the Baptist Generation
- The Voice of ONE
 - This unity prepares the way for Christ's Second Coming
 - It will hasten the day of His Return

Romans 15:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort ⁵ grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- This type of unity gives God a people who Glorify Him with One Mind & One Mouth
 - And this is pleasing to Him since Oneness is His desire in the first place

Philippians 1:27-30 (NKJV) ²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

- This type of unity gives God a people who:
 - Walk worthy of the Gospel of Christ
 - Strive together for the Faith
 - Suffer for Christ's sake
 - Being made one with HIM through the fellowship of His sufferings so that we may ALSO know the POWER OF THE RESSURECTION (Philippians 3:10).

How Do We Achieve this Oneness?

We must Ultimately Die to SELF!

Philippians 2:2-3 (NIV)

² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Romans 12:16 (NIV)

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

- Jesus said that verse 5 here was the greatest commandment and the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself.
- Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 22:36-40
 - On these two hang ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS
- So, we Achieve Oneness by LOVING GOD WITH EVERYTHING FIRST, THEN LOVING EACH OTHER AS WE LOVE OURSELVES.

Pulling it all Together Under God's Government

The following passage of Scripture pulls together the ideas of God's desire for our Oneness, His provision to get us there, and what that provision will fully accomplish:

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NIV)**ONENESS:**

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." ⁹(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

HOW:

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

FOR THIS PURPOSE:

¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- So, God plans to bring Oneness or Unity to His church through the work of His delegated authority
 - Apostles
 - Prophets
 - Evangelists
 - Pastors
 - Teachers
- How can this be accomplished
 - Through the "office gifts" beginning to step into their places in the body, and all the saints stepping into their place into the body through that ministry.

- **What is the final result?**

- Christ, the Head, will have a body in the earth to express His thoughts through action. We will only show the fullest expression of Jesus to the world when we are in Unity.
- Not everyone has full control of their bodies. We all most likely know someone who has a physical ailment that keeps them from fully controlling their own body in some way.
- There is nothing wrong with Jesus—He is perfect in every way. However, unless his body is ONE, then he does not have a way to express the FULLNESS of himself in the earth. While His church is divided in factions, and dissensions, and arguments—Christ does not have a fully functioning body with which to move in His fullest expression here (attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ) .
 - **Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)** ¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
- And they will know we are his disciples because we love each other

Example of the Power of Unity in the Tower of Babel

How Unity Can Go Wrong

Genesis 11:1-9 (NKJV) ¹ Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³ Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴ And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

- Here the people were ONE according to God Himself.
- The Problem:
 - They wanted to make a name for themselves
 - This is the sin of Self
 - Self-centeredness
 - Self-focus
 - Self-exaltation
 - Ultimately—Pride
 - God will not abide Pride
 - We cannot become ONE if we are all individually full of Pride and Self-Focus
 - God gives grace to the Humble, but Resists the Proud (James 4:6)
 - So, he scattered the people by confusing their language

- God knew that the people could have literally accomplished anything since they were one with each other
- The problem was that they were not one with Him
 - The Conclusion Drawn from this:
 - We must not only be ONE with each other
 - We must FIRST and FOREMOST be ONE with the Spirit and Heart of God
 - [1 Corinthians 6:17](#) But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.
 - When we are One with God, then One with each other—that is when we will seek for God to always be first
 - The First and Great Commandment—Love God With Everything
 - The Second—Love your neighbor as yourself

So, this is not about merely learning to become agreeable with other people. It is about us becoming one in Christ—who is the head of all things to the church. It is a spiritual journey, and we are all on it together—whether we accept that fact or not.

In Summary

- The fact that Jesus told us to pray “Our” reveals that He wants us to have a corporate mindset. He wants Oneness or Unity.
 - Jesus prayed for it in John 17:11,21
 - It is revealed as God’s will in Ephesians 1:9-10
- Gaining this Unity or Oneness accomplishes 2 things
 - It sets us into a place as a body so that God can Command His blessing over us
 - Psalm 133—God commands the blessing in Unity
 - II Corinthians 13:11—We are complete and God is with us when we are of ONE mind
 - I Peter 3:8,9—We were called to Unity for the purpose of inheriting a blessing
 - It sets us in a place as a body to truly glorify God
 - Matthew 3:3—ONE Voice to prepare the way for Christ’s Return
 - Romans 15:5-6—ONE Mind and ONE Mouth to glorify God
 - Philippians 1:27-30—ONE Mind to further the purpose of the Gospel
- How do we achieve this Oneness?
 - Esteem others as better than yourself
 - Philippians 2:2,3
 - Walk Humbly
 - Romans 12:16
 - Love God with Everything
 - Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 22:36-40
 - Love your neighbor as yourself
 - Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 22:36-40
 - Submit to God’s government (Delegated Authority)
 - Ephesians 4:1-16—The 5 Office Gifts were given to the church to bring us into Unity (among other things)
- Can Unity ever be Bad?
 - Yes, if there are not two types of unity working simultaneously.
 - We must be One with God (I Corinthians 6:17)

- Matthew 22:36-40—We Love God with Everything First, then we love our neighbor as ourselves secondly.
 - Then we must be One with each other
- The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)
 - The people here were One according to God
 - But they were trying to make “a name for” themselves
 - Therefore, they were One with each other, but not with the purposes of God
 - God had to put an end to that kind of Unity