

New City Catechism Class

Week Thirty-nine

Q39: With what attitude should we pray?

A39: With love, perseverance, and gratefulness; in humble submission to God's will, knowing that, for the sake of Christ, he always hears our prayers.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- What is an attitude?
- Do you give intentional thought to the attitudes with which you pray?

Discuss the Scripture:

- What is the context of Philippians 4?
- Is there a provision for worry found in verse 6?
- Why might we be tempted to view the first command in verse 6 as difficult?
- What is the second command in verse 6? How does this command impact how we read verse 6 as a whole?
- What is the relationship between disordered emotions and prayerlessness?
- Why is it important that our petitions be made with thanksgiving?
- What is the promise found in verse 7?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What does it mean to pray in humble submission to God's will?
- What reason does the catechism give us for praying in humble submission to God's will?
- Why does God always hear our prayers?
- What is the relationship between praying in humble submission to God's will and the attitudes with which we should pray?
- What does it mean to pray with an attitude of love?
- What does it mean to pray with an attitude of perseverance?
- What does it mean to pray with an attitude of gratefulness?

Thus when we have put up our prayers, Christ comes, and picks away the weeds, the sin of our prayer, and presents nothing but flowers to His Father, which are a sweet-smelling savour. – Thomas Watson