

Radiant Church, March 6, 2016
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Hallowed be Your Name
Matthew 6:9b

Ed Stetzer said this last week in Phoenix: 2016 Presidential Election -
“whoever wins will result in Christians not looking so good. American is not
Israel; it is Babylon. We are exiles,” but whoever ends up being the new
President is not ultimately in charge.

Matthew 6:9 *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

In Hawaii the term for someone from the mainland is *haoli*

Sometimes the term is used without meaning anything mean, but it
can be used to convey disdain

Here’s the backstory:

Before the missionaries came, the native islanders used to sit outside their
temples for a long time meditating and preparing themselves before entering.
Then they would virtually creep tow the altar to offer their petition and
afterwards would again sit a long time outside, this time to “breathe life” into
their prayers. The Christians, when they came to thee churches they built, just
got up, uttered a few sentences, said ‘Amen’ and were done. For that reason
the native islanders call them haolis, “without breath,” or “those who fail to
breathe life into their prayers.”

Last week we (tired to) look at the beginning of this prayer: Our Father in
heaven.

He is both our Father, and He is our sovereign King - we can approach Him
intimately, but also with deepest awe and respect

Someone who “breathes life into their prayers” takes the time to first reflect
on the One to whom they are going to speak.

“Our Father in heaven” is the foundational awareness, and here is the
foundational petition, “Hallowed be your Name”

The Lord’s prayer has six petitions or requests:

Your Name

Your Kingdom

Your will

And three for us

Give us

Forgive us

Lead us not...but deliver us

The God-given order for prayer is to have regard for God first

To “hallow” God’s Name rests on two words, “Hallow” and “Name”
Let’s start first with Name

Psalm 20:7 *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God*

This is trusting in God’s Name, His character, His being true to His promises, over personal or military might

These days, we name our kids primarily because we like the sound or the spelling of that name. Sometimes we name them after beloved relatives or friends.

In the old times, the name given to a child also conveyed to that child something to aspire to, a standard to live up to.

My name is Michael - one who is like God, and David - friend of God
Our son’s name is Stephen - meaning crown, or reward for the victorious one
Our daughter is named Kaycie - which means Kaycie, I guess

God’s name, YAHWEH, we learn from **Exodus 3:13-14** *Then Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, What is his name, what shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.’*

Because God has always been, He is the true sovereign Creator, He is the ultimate ruler, He is the only One worthy of worship.

What does it mean to “hallow” God’s name?

The root word means to “set apart as holy,” to “consider holy,” “to treat as holy.” In Isaiah the word “sanctify” is used.

Isaiah 29:22-23 *Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale. For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.*

It means to reverence, to honor, to not treat lightly

This request of God that His name be hallowed has two distinct ideas:

1. It looks to eternity, when his Fatherhood will be fully revealed before all creation
2. Second, it looks for god’s name to be hallowed in this present fallen age
This is what Jesus had in mind when he prayed in **John 17:25-26** *O Righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know*

you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them

How did Jesus make God's name known?

He went to the cross, on our behalf, and demonstrated God's love

He fulfilled God's rescue plan for his lost creation, lost mankind
Jesus rose from the curse and finality of death, so we could know and have certainty that we will ultimately be physically reunited with our heavenly, our hallowed Father

In doing this, Jesus manifested God's name

Holy - completely without sin

Just - intolerant of sin, fair and impartial, and everyone's actions on earth and attitudes toward God will be judged, because the price for sin is the death of the sinner

And Gracious - giving what is not deserved, choosing some to be saved by His sacrificial, substitute atonement, so we could be loved, so we could be given life out of His death, so we could be what He intended Creation to be at the very beginning of His creative work

Try to remove any of these foundational attributes from God, and our understanding of Who God is ceases to be correct

Because he is God, He is our Father, and He wanted a family of children who would call upon him while also hallowing His name

So HOW do we hallow God's name?

We cannot truly pray "hallowed be your name" without commitment on our part

In **John 12:27-28** as the time for Jesus to go to the cross came near, He prayed; *Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name. Then a voice came from heaven: I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.*

God had already glorified Himself in Creation. He had glorified Himself in and through Jesus, and He would glorify Himself again by Jesus going to the shameful cross, a death reserved for criminals, that our sins would be paid for, and our intended relationship with our heavenly Father would be reconstituted and restored.

What can, what does our commitment to God's hallowed Name look like?

1. Be careful not to dishonor Him by taking His name in vain. We must speak of God with reverence. He is so much greater than just the "man upstairs."
2. We reverence Him with acts of public and private worship.

3. We hallow His name when our beliefs concerning Him are worthy of Him. We cannot ever again begin a sentence in conversation with “Well...I think God is more like...” We must be willing to grow in our theology, our doctrine, and all of that comes out of our right understanding of Who God is and what He does. That is the work of the Holy Spirit in us...and it requires effort on our part, too.
4. And fourth, we hallow His name by living a life that displays that He is our Father. When we live as a Family of Servant Missionaries learning to Be and Make Disciples, when we’re truly serious about living out from that identity, we display that we are His adopted children, and He is our Father, our Abba. Our Dad

John 17:1-26 the “High Priestly Prayer”

A core theme here is the Name of God, our Father

Let me read it to you, as we close our time in God’s Word, and dedicate our thoughts to the Word about God manifested in the Jesus, the Son of God...