

God's Holiness

1. Why not start with repentance?

Repentance only comes when we recognize the holiness of the one in whose presence we come.

Repentance can be seen as a manipulation, a sort of works righteousness: we repent in order to gain access to God.

Scripturally, this is inaccurate.

An accurate path to repentance: God tabernacles with us, God works on our behalf, we repent, recognizing that we are not worthy.

The word tabernacle in the Bible:

Moses, and the making of the traveling temple. (Ex. 25:8, 9)

Used in OT predictions of the Messiah (Zech. 2:11)

God in Jesus (Col 1:19)

Jesus dwelling amongst us (Rev. 21:3)

2. The Lord's prayer is our example of the form of prayer.

Repentance does not come until after our recognition of God's holiness and our thanks for God's work.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name...

3. What Does "holy" mean?

The word Holy comes from word Hagios, which means

...set apart

...NOT perfect

...the word "saint" has as its root "holy"

Used to refer to:

A Place (Ex. 3:5)

To Heaven (Ex 15:13, Psalm 68:5)

To a day (Ex. 20:8, Nehemiah 9:14)

To Art (Ex. 28:36)

To gatherings/festivals (Lev. 23:1)

God's Name (Lev. 22:2, Psalm 30:4)

Our Offerings to God (Lev. 27:30)

God (I Samuel 2:2)

To Us (I Peter 2:9)

Recognizing God's Holiness is our time to let go of the junk and cares of this life.

This is about God, not about me.

In the presence of God's holiness, the most appropriate response is reverence :

Remove shoes (Ex. 3:5)

Bow down (Gen. 17:3)

Silence (Lev. 10:3, Rev. 8:1)

God's Action

Your kingdom come...

The Apostles' Creed is an accurate reflection of the scriptures,
telling us what God has done.

Article 1

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Article 2

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living
and the dead**

Article 3

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

God's kingdom is already but not yet.

...on earth as it is in heaven...

Jesus was God's fulfillment of his salvific plan

We believe that Jesus will come again

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

God uses people to do His will

God blesses us through others

We, too, will be called to bless others for God's sake

Give us this day our daily bread.

Bread is dependant upon our work and God's blessing

Daily bread are our necessities, not our wants

What does this include?

While God waters, nourishes, we do need to work for these things.

Coming to Repentance

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us
God's forgiveness is not dependant upon our forgiving of others
HOWEVER...

...our forgiveness is assumed as THE appropriate response
Those who have been forgiven and loved much, will forgive and love much
(Luke 7:37-50)

For what do we need to repent?

Genesis 3:1-7

The "original" sin had nothing to do with a silly piece of fruit

Sin is the desire to be like God

We no longer have to answer to anyone.

We are at the center of our universe.

Sin is service to ourselves at the expense of:

God

Others

Creation

Sin is also abusing and neglecting our own NEEDS (I Cor. 3:16)

Your body is God's temple

It is appropriate to assert your needs, but not your wants at the expense of others.

For what do we need to offer forgiveness?

How often should we forgive? (Matthew 18:21-35)

Unforgiveness only destroys us.

Our forgiveness is not dependant upon the person asking for this forgiveness
or even receiving this forgiveness.

Asking God to Use Us

Thy Kingdom Come...

1. God expects an invitation into our daily lives
God does not crash into our lives without one
2. God wants us to share His passion
We are not robots
God uses us has his hands and feet
3. What happens when we ask?
We open a dialogue with God.
We ask the following questions of God:
 - What is God's will for the kingdom?
 - How do I fit in?
 - How must I change to fit into this will?
4. We are called to serve our neighbors
 - a. Jesus defines neighbors not by proximity, but by need.
 - b. The question is not: Who is my neighbor?
 - c. The question is: Am I a neighbor?
5. How do I become a neighbor? (Luke 10:30-37)
 - a. Identify those who are in need (vs. 30)
This neighbor was stripped, beaten, abandoned
He was also an enemy
 - b. We cannot be indifferent (vs. 31,32)
 - c. Express compassion (vs. 33)
This is not sympathy, which feels bad but does nothing.
This is empathy, which identifies with the sufferer, and intercedes on their behalf
 - d. Be willing to sacrifice (vs. 34, 35)
We want to define who is a neighbor so we can limit our responsibility
We are called to give of our:
Time, Money, Love