

**Principle #5: Knowing God (as He is) – is the prerequisite for loving others (as they are)**

**Premise:**

1. The goal is to love people as they are.

2. The kindness of the Lord leads to repentance.

Romans 2:4

Every culture has \_\_\_\_\_ of God that send people down religious trails that lead them away from God.

- The disciples grew up in a false system of prayer.

When Jesus prayed there was a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- One of the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray..." Luke 11:1

*It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup> And He said to them, "When you pray, say:*

*'Father, hallowed be Your name.*

*Your Kingdom come.*

*<sup>3</sup> 'Give us each day our daily bread.*

*<sup>4</sup> 'And forgive us our sins,*

*For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.*

*And lead us not into temptation.'"*

Luke 11:1-4 (NASB)

### Overview of the Lord's Prayer:

"Father hallowed be Your name."

- God is transcendent, but He is approachable and intimate.

"Your Kingdom come."

- Get God's agenda on the table first.

"Give us each day our daily bread."

- Pray for your specific needs.

"And forgive us our sins, [as we ourselves] forgive everyone who is indebted to us."

- Intimate prayer with the Father is always a cleansing experience.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Matthew 6:13

- Ask for God's protection.

**Story – negative example**

*<sup>5</sup> Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup> and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.*

Luke 11:5-8 (NASB)

**Application - truth**

*<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.*

Luke 11:9-10 (NASB)

**Story – positive example**

*<sup>11</sup> Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? <sup>12</sup> Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"*

Luke 11:1-13 (NASB)

**Definition of Prayer:** Keeping \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

**Practice:**

1. Bring all your needs to the “\_\_\_\_\_” Father who loves you.
2. Come to God in desperate \_\_\_\_\_ – “I have nothing.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Bringing about change in a relationship is not about fixing people; it's learning how to love them as they are. Who is God leading you to love in this way?
2. Do you see God as approachable and intimate? Why or why not?
3. Your prayer life always reveals your level of genuine dependency. What does your prayer life reveal about your dependence on God?
4. How does knowing that God is a loving Father change the way you love others?