

Lutheran Women in Mission

What's in a Name?

(2nd in our series on the Lord's Prayer: Hallowed Be Thy Name)

by *Stephanie Kelling*

Opening

Sing "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" (*LW* 171, *TLH* 250, *LBW* 535) or "Jesus, Name Above All Names" from Jesus' People Sing! or The Other Songbook.

Paging through "Who's Who in America" or strolling through a cemetery, one might reflect on what a name stands for. Positive name recognition can spell success in business, sports or politics. The name of a famous person can bring to mind images of glory and renown. Think of Alexander the Great, "Lucky" Lindbergh or Queen Victoria. Some names signify goodness and selflessness, such as Mother Theresa; others bring terror and dread, such as Hitler.

God's Name: Properties of Perfection

God's name reveals His character. What do these verses tell us about God?

- **Genesis 17:1**
- **Genesis 21:33**
- **Deuteronomy 32:3-6**
- **Judges 6:24**
- **2 Samuel 22:2-3**
- **Psalms 23:1**
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**
- **1 John 4:8**

God is perfect! Virtue, purity, goodness and love are the essence of God. In his explanation of this petition, Martin Luther says, "God's name is indeed holy in itself." Discuss how God showed His holiness in the following verses:

- **Leviticus 10:1-3**
- **Ezekiel 38:17-23**
- **Isaiah 6:1-4**

Hallowing God's Name

Since God's name is already holy, how do we keep His name holy in our lives? What help does God's Word provide in these verses?

- **Jeremiah 23:28**
- **Micah 6:8**
- **Matthew 5:13-16**
- **2 Corinthians 7:1**

Faithfully teaching and living according to God's Word equips us to honor God's holy name, for it is in His Word that His name is revealed to us.

Avoiding Profanity

Profanity is socially acceptable in today's society, so common that many people are callused to it. But blasphemy is nothing new. Read the following passages to discover other ways it occurs.

How we teach: Jeremiah 23:30-32

How we live: Proverbs 30:8-9, Romans 2:23-24

Instead of our words causing contempt and reproach of God, how can we use our words for His glory?

- **Psalm 19:14**
- **Psalm 104:33**
- **Ephesians 4:29b**

Application to My Life

Try to identify three areas where God's name is not hallowed fully in your life. How can what you have learned in this study help you keep God's name holy? Pray in groups of two or three-or privately-asking God to ignite in you a desire to give Him glory in all you do and say.

Closing

Sing "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" (*LW 279, TLH 364, LBW 345*).



God's Names

In conjunction with this Bible study, you may want to have your pastor or another knowledgeable Bible student speak to your society about the names of God used in the original Hebrew and Greek. For example names such as Elohim, Yahweh, Adonai, El Shaddai are shown in our Bibles by various words and type faces such as LORD, Lord, God, God Almighty, etc.

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