

THE UNDERLYING ATTITUDE OF PRAYER

Matthew 7:7-12

From: Scott Carlson

October 8, 2023

INTRODUCTION: TWO WAYS OF THINKING

God made two types of brains for humans. He made the engineer brain, and He made the philosopher brain.

Engineer: logical, concrete, dutiful, steady, faithful, task-oriented

Philosopher: abstract, visionary, flexible, creative, people-oriented

One of the dangers the engineer faces is that he might be perfectly content to follow Jesus out of a sense of duty.

The relationship between man and God goes far deeper than mere duty. At its core is love. As we work through our series on prayer, , I want to show you that the underlying attitude of prayer is love between us and God.

John 16:26. 27

In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

Proposition: God generously loves us (as evidenced by prayer) so we should generously love others.

Matthew 22:37-40

I. EXPERIENCE GOD'S GENEROUS LOVE

A. GOD IS GENEROUS, VV. 7, 8

1. Ask And It Will Be Given
2. Seek And You Will Find
3. Knock And The Door Will Be Opened To You

B. GOD WILL ONLY GIVE WHAT IS GOOD, VV. 9-11

1. He Won't Trick You To Harm You, v. 9
2. He Won't Lead You Into Sin, v. 10

Point:

II. IMITATE GOD'S GENEROUS LOVE, V. 12

A. WHAT VERSE 12 DOESN'T MEAN

1. Be Careful Not To Offend Others Or They Might Offend You
2. Give Others What You Would Like To Receive

B. WHAT VERSE 12 MUST MEAN

The way God treats us: generous love

The way you treat others: generous love

He defined the way you like to be loved in verses 7-11. Now he says love that same way.

1 John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

? How should we love others?

1. Be Generous

1 Timothy 6:18

Instruct [those who are rich in this world] to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share...

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

? Who is poor? Anyone who has less than you.

Matthew 18:21-35

2 Corinthians 1:4

[God] comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 . Give Gifts For Their Good

Hebrews 13:16

And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

3. Give Gifts That Grow Them

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

2 Timothy 2:2

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Matthew 10:7, 8

And as you go, preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give."

Point:

CONCLUSION: LOVE IS THE HEART OF PRAYER

Wayne Grudem defines God's love as:

God's Love

God eternally giving Himself to others.

If that's the way God loves us, we ought to love others in the same way.

Love

Sacrificially giving of yourself to others.

APPLICATION

Ask and see how God gives.

Seek and see how God reveals.

Knock and watch as God opens doors.

Love others with that same generosity.