

# PRAY FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

## PRAYING AS MEMBER'S OF CHRIST'S BODY

*"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me"*

~ Romans 15:30

### 1. Access to God

- a. We know not how to pray. Ignorance and flesh confound prayer. You can learn.
- b. At one time, prayer access was through covenant standing, position, authority (name)
  - i. Prayers could be abominable, sinful, or not heard – Pro 15:29, 28:9, Ps 109:7
  - ii. Requests were taken to a throne humbly (or boldly) to get help – Heb 4:16
- c. Today, we have access by faith through Christ into God's grace – Rom 5:2, Eph 3:12

### 2. Members of Christ

- a. We pray as members of Christ's body, the temple of God – Eph 5:30
- b. Our prayers are done in his body; in Christ, and by Christ - Col 3:3-4, 17
- c. Paul labors by Christ's work in him, to make known Christ in you – Col 1:27-29
- d. God's will for the body of Christ to be filled to the full – Eph 1:23, 3:19, 4:12-13, 5:18
- e. We pray to God who indwells us, prayer should acknowledge that union – 1 Cor 3:16

### 3. For Christ's Sake

- a. For Christ's sake means we glorify what he did, who we are, him in us, his ministry.
- b. The "sinners prayer" does not mention what Christ has now done - Luke 18:9-14
- c. The disciples prayer does not include Christ's payment for sins – Matt 6:12, Eph 4:32
- d. Paul forgives, seeks unity, separates for Christ's sake 1Co 1:10, 5:4, 2 Cor 2:10
  - i. Paul prays for 'Christ's sake' to glorify the word and work of Christ – Rom 15:30
  - ii. He pleasures in injury, needs, and pain "for Christ's sake" – 2 Cor 12:10
  - iii. We pray for Jesus' sake, as servants, not for ourselves – 2 Tim 2:4, 2 Cor 4:5
- e. Our lives are his, and so our prayers are his also – 2 Cor 5:15, Phi 2:21

### 4. Praying for the Mind of Christ

- a. Every lesson about being taught to prayer is teaching us to change our mind.
- b. We have the mind of Christ, which was not known before - 1 Cor 2:10, 16
- c. Phi 1:29 – There is belief unto life, and then there is suffering "for his sake"
- d. Phi 2:4-5 – "Let this mind be in you ..." → "took upon him the form of a servant"
- e. Phi 3:8-9 - "excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord... and be found in him"
- f. Phi 4:7 – When we pray... God keeps "your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"

### 5. Praying Under Grace

- a. Popular prayer positions: eyes closed, heads bowed, folded hands, on knees, in a closet
- b. Unpopular prayer position: as a member of Christ's body; as dead, living his life.
- c. Speaking the truth in prayer helps us grow up into Christ in all things – Eph 4:15
- d. "Glory in you, and ye in him, according to..." - 2 Thess 1:11-12
- e. If you struggle praying, a good prayer for Jesus sake might be, "Glorify yourself in me."