

**P582**

**GRACE NOTES PROGRAM**

**TITLE: THE LORD'S PRAYER – Who art in Heaven**

**SONG: Grace stepped forth**

**The love of God**

**INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We've been studying the Model Prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray and focusing in on why we address God as Father. The word 'Father', is defined as nourisher, protector, and upholder. God, our Father, is all that, and more, to us - His children. But, are we ALL God's children? Does everyone have the right to call Him, Father?**

**Stay tuned as we look into this question. Be prepared to write down all the Scripture references. You'll want to review them afterwards.**  
.....

**We've heard the phrase before..."We're ALL God's children." But is this true? To answer this question, let's consider this. What gives someone the right to call his or her earthly father that name? Easy – they were either born or adopted into the family. We wouldn't think of calling someone else's father, 'father', much less expect them to treat us like one of their own children. And we shouldn't expect that of God, either. Just because we're made in God's image and likeness doesn't mean we are of the same bloodline. God is holy, and our blood is tainted by sin. In fact, we're born that way as a result of what the first humans, Adam and Eve, did in the Garden of Eden. Almighty God, was their Father, but when they yielded to temptation from satan, they sinned against God and satan took over the role. Romans 5:19a describes this....  
...through the disobedience of the one man (that's Adam), the many were made sinners (that's us).**

**As a result, human beings do not naturally choose to have God in their lives.**

**Romans 3:10a says... "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, NO ONE WHO SEEKS GOD..."**

**Many Jews of Jesus' day considered themselves to be 'righteous' because they were descendants of Abraham and had the law. In John 8:38-44 they contended that they were automatically children of God. Jesus responded by saying...**

**"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but He sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of**

**lies. Yet because I tell the TRUTH, you do not believe me!**  
**Wow, what a put down for these people who were great scholars of the Bible and followers of the law. So does that mean that God is no one's father? No – let me explain using Scripture.**

**Let's read Romans 5:19 in its entirety....**

**...Just as through the disobedience of the one man (that's Adam), the many were made sinners (that's us), SO also through the OBEDIENCE of the one man (that's Jesus), the many will be made righteous.**

**2 Corinthians 5:21 confirms that...**

**God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that IN HIM we might become the righteousness of God.**

**1 Peter 3:18a reiterates this...Christ died for sins ONCE FOR ALL, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.**

**Another helpful passage is Romans 8:1-4...**

**Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are IN Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.**

**The beauty of it all is that God had this planned for us even before Adam & Eve sinned. Listen to Ephesians 1:4-7...**

**For He chose us IN HIM (Christ) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love He predestined us to be ADOPTED as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will-- to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. IN HIM we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.**

**Ok, then, does this mean since Jesus paid the price for our forgiveness and a righteous position before God, that we are ALL automatically God's children? No, we have to be joined to Christ for our blood to be cleansed and then be adopted by God.**

**Notice, that the phrase IN HIM is repeated in most of the verses we just read.**

Continue reading verses 13-14 of Ephesians 1 and we'll see how we can be 'IN HIM'. It reads...

...you also were included in Christ when you HEARD the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. HAVING BELIEVED, you were marked IN HIM with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of His glory. That's the key to the adoption process.

\*\*\*\*\* WRITER: Marty & Patti Elmore

\*\*\* GRACE STEPPED FORTH \*\*\* LENGTH: 3:46

\*\*\*\*\*

**VERSE 1:**

*The jury was in - the verdict was sure  
I held no hope that I'd go free  
Condemned for the wrong and guilty of all  
Until grace paid the ransom for me.*

**CHORUS:**

*When grace stepped forth to take my place  
Darkness was broken & sin was erased  
In the midst of the shame that I had to face  
With love God's grace stepped forth in my place.*

**VERSE 2:**

*Had I received all I deserved  
I'd be in shackles today  
But the Savior above looked on me with love  
And then grace stepped forth in my place*

*<<Repeat Chorus>>*

**TAG:**

*In the midst of the shame that I had to face  
With love God's grace stepped forth in my place.*

**Funerals are times of reflection, not only of the deceased, but also of our own life. Death literally stares us in the face. We are confronted with the brevity of life and the eminency of our own departure. I recently attended a funeral for a 10-year-old girl. The minister gave an eloquent eulogy, depicting the godly character of little 'Katie' who loved Jesus. It was the perfect time to present the fact that if we want to see Katie again, and enjoy what she is enjoying, we must become part of God's family. I was excited when He began to share what Jesus said in John 14: 6.. "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." But he stopped there. He left off the rest of the verse, which says... "no man comes to the Father but by me."**

**By leaving this part of the verse off, he was sure not to offend anyone because he was basically saying this was his opinion. He didn't use the whole counsel of Scripture, which declares that Jesus is the ONLY way. It may have been politically correct, so to speak, but in doing so he watered down the message and possibly misled the seekers.**

**We must believe and receive the TRUTH that it is only through Jesus that we can be called a child of God. And, we need to believe that He died for our sin, rose again and is the ONLY way we can be saved from condemnation.**

**When we ACCEPT this truth into our hearts we can say with the apostle John in 1 John 3:1...**

**How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!**

**\*\*\*\*\* WRITER: Frederick M. Lehman**

**\*\*\* THE LOVE OF GOD \*\*\* LENGTH: 3:32**

**\*\*\*\*\***

***Verse 1***

***The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,  
And reaches to the lowest hell;  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,  
God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled,  
And pardoned from his sin.***

***Chorus***

***Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—  
The saints' and angels' song.***

*Verse 2*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

*Repeat chorus*

\*\*\*\*\*

**You've been listening to Grace Notes. If this ministry has blessed you, please write and tell us at**

**Sandbek Ministries**

**P.O. Box 581 Fallston, MD 21047**

**or email us through our web site [www.gracenotesradio.com](http://www.gracenotesradio.com).**

**Join us on our next program. Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!**