



“I Will Pray with the Understanding”

**Leading Public Prayer
(Conclusion)**

Previously

- Jesus' instructions for prayer apply to public prayers
- All prayer must be offered to God with great reverence
- We're told to go to God with boldness, but boldness is not arrogance
- All prayer is an act of worship and must exalt God
- All prayer, public or private, must be an expression of faith, not a ritual
- The one who words the prayer leads the congregation. The prayer he leads must represent those being lead.



Previously

- The one who leads in public prayer must consider how it affects the hearers.
- You are not leading if no one is following. No one can follow if they cannot hear what is being said.
- Those who ask others to lead prayer must recognize the importance of what they are asking of them.
- Call on them with notice so they can prepare what they will say.
- The audience has a mandated responsibility to pray with the leader.

Public Prayer Is Always Addressed To God

- One must never lead a prayer to draw attention to himself
- Even though the audience must be considered, prayer is always directed to God - Matt. 6:5
- Do not use an approach the hearers will find distracting.
- Like a good sermon, do not make the prayer exceptionally long or short.



Public Prayer Is Always Addressed To God

- Every word in the prayer must be addressed from the speaker's heart to God.
- Prayer is not the way to communicate with anyone in the audience.
- Don't preach, admonish, or rebuke in your prayer.
- The repetitious use of memorized phrases is not prayer; it is performance.



Public Prayer Is Appropriate For The Occasion

- It will never be true that one prayer fits all occasions
- Prayers must express the heart of that group for that specific purpose
- The prayer must focus on God's role on the occasion and consider the effect it will have on the respondent and all who hear.

Public Prayer Is Appropriate For The Occasion

- Christians are often asked to lead public prayers outside the assembly.
- Jesus gave thanks for the food before feeding the 5,000; how many were Christians? - Luke 9:16
- When called on in a civic gathering, remember that you are still praying to God and leading the hearers. Pray sincerely, unashamedly, faithfully, and appropriate to the occasion

Public Prayer Is Appropriate For The Occasion

- When praying in a religious gathering outside of the Lord's Church, be faithful to the truth, but avoid being judgmental or condescending
 - Col. 4:5-6 - "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."
 - What is the need of the group? Pray for it.

“I Will Pray with the Understanding”

- When we are called on to lead a prayer, remember it is an honor, privilege, and a grave responsibility
- A public prayer is unlike anything else we do in the assembly. It is often difficult to keep one’s spirit directed toward God, pray from the heart, and consider the audience.
 - We must give our responsibility serious thought.
 - We must bring our hearts as well as those of the audience before God
 - We must prepare ourselves to do well.
 - Frequent private prayer is the best preparation for public prayer. We develop our comfort zone for prayer in the closet on our knees.



“I Will Pray with the Understanding”

- You prepare to lead other Christians in prayer by being a Christian whose life is a light for others to follow.
- “You can speak with spiritual eloquence and a holy appearance when you pray publically, but it is your behavior that will reveal your true character.” *(Steve Maraboli)*