

HOW NOT TO PRAY!

Jesus confronts religious hypocrisy and pagan ignorance manifest in prayer
Matthew 6:5-8

I. *UNDERSTAND* WE ARE NOT TO PRAY LIKE THE INSINCERE RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITES, WHO PRAY TO BE NOTICED BY MEN RATHER THAN FOR GOD (5-6)

A. **Heed Jesus' warning:** Do not be like the outwardly religious hypocrites whose **insincere prayer** reveals their wicked desire, the love of man's approval, which is their only reward **(5)**

B. **Recognize how we are to pray in contrast:** Our prayer is to God alone, as illustrated by private prayer, which is for no one but God, who will repay **(6)**

II. *RECOGNIZE* WE ARE NOT TO PRAY LIKE THE UNSAVED PAGANS, WHO IN THEIR IGNORANCE OF GOD, EXERT EFFORT SUPPOSING HE WILL HEAR, not knowing He knows all, yet will not listen to them because of their sin (7-8)

A. **Heed Jesus' warning:** Do not **pray ignorantly** like the deceived pagans, thinking their meaningless repetitions and many words causes God to hear **(7)**

B. **Therefore, we are to not be like them,** because God is all-knowing, yet only listens to those who are in His family **(8)**

III. **THE IMPLICATION:** The way you pray reveals your true identity. If you pray like a religious hypocrite, your probably religious hypocrite. If you pray like the unsaved your probably unsaved.