

What are some reasons we don't call our parents?

When it comes to our Heavenly Father, while you may have a temporary personal opinion about Him in your life, if the Bible is true, then He is eternally good, loving, and purposeful in and around our lives. And so with a Father like that, every day should be Father's Day.

And yet we rarely call Him unless we're in trouble or we need something.
In fact, we would rather call our Heavenly Brother than our Heavenly Father.

Matthew 6:5–15 ESV

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Call your Father

"But we don't get along...Isn't Jesus our intermediary, our high priest?"
(Borrowing Dad's car analogy)

Ask, How would you answer the question, "What is prayer?" (*Intentionally conveying a message to God.*)

Why don't we just say, "prayer is talking to God?" First because our sinful hearts need an interpreter.

Romans 8:26 ESV

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Also, "prayer is communicating with God" is imprecise as well because that suggests a back and forth. God talking to me is never called prayer in the Bible. When God communicates something to us, we call it *revelation* or *illumination*. God doesn't pray to us.

So, what does Jesus say the first topic should be when we start intentionally conveying a message to our Father?

Hallow the Father's Name

Greek literally says, "Cause your name to be hallowed."

"This should be our first request. That God would display the greatness of God. That God would make much of God. That God would overcome blindness to seeing God. That God would overcome indifference to God. That God would remove obstacles to knowing and admiring and loving and trusting and treasuring and obeying God."

Request that God would make much of Himself.

Ask, What kinds of personal messages do/should we convey?

Get specific

Ask Him for things/people, praise His nature, thank Him for gifts, confess to Him, & complain to Him ("But Phil 2:14!" - better to Him than others [and we have the HS to shape our prayer and us])

- **Ask – Matthew 7:7**
- **Praise – Psalm 145:1-2**
- **Thank Him for what He's Given –**
- **Confess Specifically – Psalm 35:5**
- **Complain – Psalm 142:1-2; Philippians 2:14**

Forgive others as He forgives you

Colossians 3 – forgive because you have been forgiven

The Son is the door to the Father

John 10:7 ESV

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

Colossians 3:17 ESV

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Allow for questions and be discerning of those who may need more follow up.

Take prayer requests.

Pray