

Biblical Topics

Lord's Prayer – First Petition

Hallowed be Your name

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

We hallow God's name when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity. We hallow God's name when we 1) speak it faithfully, 2) add nothing, 3) reject nothing 4) do not corrupt it by false interpretation.

- John 17:17: Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.
- Jeremiah 23:28: Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD.

We hallow God's name when we as the children of God lead a holy life according to the Word of God. This means we are to avoid what He forbids and do what He desires.

- Matthew 5:16: In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

God's name is profaned when anyone teaches otherwise than what God's Word teaches. This happens when we teach, believe and/or spread false doctrines.

- Ezekiel 22:26: Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

God's name is profaned when anyone lives otherwise than God's Word teaches. We dishonor God when we profess His name with our mouths, but disobey Him in our lives.

- Romans 2:23-24: You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? ²⁴ As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

The above information is taken from: "Luther's Small Catechism" annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler.