

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 180. What is it to pray in the name of Christ?

A To pray in the name of Christ is, in obedience to his command, and in confidence on his promises, to ask mercy for his sake;¹ not by bare mentioning of his name,² but by drawing our encouragement to pray, and our boldness, strength, and hope of acceptance in prayer, from Christ and his mediation.³

1. John 14:13–14; John 16:24; Dan. 9:17. 2. Matt. 7:21. 3. Heb. 4:14–16; 1 John 5:13–15.

Q 181. Why are we to pray in the name of Christ?

A The sinfulness of man, and his distance from God by reason thereof, being so great, as that we can have no access into his presence without a mediator;¹ and there being none in heaven or earth appointed to, or fit for, that glorious work but Christ alone,² we are to pray in no other name but his only.³

1. John 14:6; Isa. 59:2; Eph. 3:12. 2. John 6:27; Heb. 7:25–27; 1 Tim. 2:5. 3. Col. 3:17; Heb. 13:15.

Q 182. How doth the Spirit help us to pray?

A We not knowing what to pray for as we ought, the Spirit helpeth our infirmities, by enabling us to understand both for whom, and what, and how prayer is to be made; and by working and quickening in our hearts (although not in all persons, nor at all times, in the same measure) those apprehensions, affections, and graces which are requisite for the right performance of that duty.¹

1. Rom. 8:26–27; Ps. 10:17; Zech. 12:10.

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