

## Prayer Rules: The Do's

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Want to pray acceptably to God? Here are a list of some scriptural "do's" to keep in mind the next time you pray:

1. Be right with God. The following passages teach us that if we have an attitude of persisting in sin, God will not hear our prayers: Psalm 34:15-17; 66:18; Proverbs 15:29; 28:9; Isaiah 59:1-2; John 9:31; 1 Timothy 2:8; 1 Peter 3:12; 1 John 3:21-22.

2. Pray "in faith"; with full assurance; no doubts (Matthew 21:21-22).

3. Pray with respect (Matthew 6:9).

4. Pray according to God's will (1 John 3:22; 5:14-15).

5. Be specific (Matthew 7:7-12).

6. Pray with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2).

7. Pray with watchfulness (Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Peter 4:7).

8. Be persistent (Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; James 5:16-17).

9. Pray in Jesus' name (John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24; Ephesians 2:18; 3:12; 5:20; Colossians 3:17; James 5:14)

- Chris Reeves -

Next week: "Prayer Rules: The Don'ts"

## Sentence Sermons

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- Sitting in a church house will no more make you a Christian than sitting in a hen house will make you a hen.
- It is inconsistent to argue that it is wrong to argue.
- Some well-fed bodies contain under-nourished souls.
- To train children at home, it is necessary for both parents and children to spend some time there.

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Assembly Times  
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm  
Wednesday: 7 pm

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Jesus Was “Narrow-Minded”

Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leads unto life, and few are they that find it.  
- Matthew 7:13-14 -

Strive to enter in by the narrow door: for many, I say unto you, shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able.  
- Luke 13:24 -

Quite often today people will accuse us as Christians of being “narrow-minded”. They say we are “narrow-minded” when we will not accept their homosexual lifestyle, when we say they have to “go to church”, when we say they have to be baptized, etc. They tell us that we should be more “open-minded” to their way of life; more accepting; more tolerant.

What is interesting about this mind-set is that even these people believe that some things in life do not allow for an “open-minded” approach. For example, they believe that there is just one answer to the question, What does 2 plus 2 equal? They believe that the only right answer is 4 and nothing else. They would not allow an “open-minded” answer of 5, 6, or 7.

Additionally, people who call for a more “open-minded” lifestyle do not believe you should be “open-minded” with such things as measurements, historical dates, scientific facts, money matters, etc. They just want us all to be “open-minded” in the areas of life that involve their personal morality.

So, the question before us is this: Should we be narrow-minded? Or, was Jesus narrow-minded? Let us turn in our Bible to the life of Jesus and his followers for the answer. Let us first notice that Jesus was narrow-minded in some aspects of his life. Jesus was narrow-minded...

**IN HIS VIEW OF HIMSELF.** Jesus did not allow for just any view of himself. He denounced the different false views of himself. In turn, Jesus claimed to be the one and only divine Son of God who was the Messiah / Christ (Matthew 16:13-15; Mark 14:61-62; Jn. 4:25-26; 10:1-4).

**IN HIS VIEW OF AUTHORITY.** Jesus did not allow just anyone to teach religiously. He denounced the religious leaders of his day for misleading the people. On the other hand, he taught with authority and he claimed to have all authority from his Father (Matthew 7:28; 28:18).

**IN HIS VIEW OF WORSHIP.** Jesus did not say that any religion is fine with God so long as you are sincere. He condemned the false religion of his day. Jesus taught that one must worship God, him only, and worship

God in spirit and truth (Luke 4:6-8; John 4:21-24).

## IN HIS VIEW OF MARRIAGE.

When Jesus was asked if one may put-away (divorce) his mate for just any cause, he answered “No”. Jesus said that marriage is for life and there is just one cause for putting-away: fornication (Matthew 19:3-9).

## IN HIS VIEW OF SALVATION.

Jesus did not say that there are many ways that a person can be saved. Jesus said that there is a narrow road that leads to eternal life and one must be on that road and no other (Matthew 7:13-14; 25:30; Luke 13:24; John 3:3-5). Jesus said that he is the only way to God (John 14:6).

Jesus’ followers were also narrow-minded. For example, Peter taught that there is no other savior but Jesus (Acts 3:23; 4:12). Paul taught that there is not another gospel other than the NT gospel (Galatians 1:6-9; 2:5). John taught that we do not have God if we go beyond the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11). Jude taught that we are to contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered (Jude 3).

Yes, Jesus and his followers were narrow-minded on matters pertaining to our relationship with God. Today, if we are called “narrow-minded” by the world then that just puts us in good company with Jesus and his followers. - Chris Reeves