

3. A church devoted to prayer is a church that... enjoys a relationship with God together

- A relationship not a technique
 - Ephesians 6:18

- Nourished through the word of God
 - Romans 10:17

- Enjoyed together because of the fellowship of the Spirit

Marks of the church: prayer
Acts 2:42
Sunday 29th September 2024

Intro

1. A church devoted to prayer is a church that... knows they are God's children

"Prayer is the primary way true faith expresses itself. This also means that prayerlessness is practical atheism."
(Michael Reeves, Enjoy Your Prayer Life, p.12)

- We're adopted into his family
 - Romans 8:14-16

- We're invited to join the conversation
 - "There is always already a conversation going on among Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When we pray, we are joining that conversation. We have been invited to call on God as Father, invited by a Spirit of sonship that cries out, "Abba, Father," as the eternal Son does." (Fred Sanders, The Deep Things of God, p223)
 - "Christians are people who talk to God like they are Jesus Christ. Calling God "Father" is a great privilege, one that can have no possible grounding in our own merit. But we do it because Jesus the Son invites us to join him in his prayer to his Father. Christian prayer is a family thing, and it is open only to [sons and daughters] of God." (Fred Sanders, The Deep Things of God, p224)
- We pray to a kind and generous Father
 - Luke 11:1-13

2. A church devoted to prayer is a church that... depends on their Father in heaven.

- Acts 4:23-31
 - God is sovereign vv.24-26
 - God uses prayer to fulfil his purposes vv.28-29
 - When we pray, we depend on God v.31