

Wisdom Not Worry
Thursday, June 11, 2020

“Hallowed be Your name...”

In just over a week, I'll be privileged to officiate the wedding of some dear friends. One of the highlights of the wedding ceremony for me is the moment the bride in all her glory is ushered into the sanctuary on the arm of her father. The occasion is heightened, not only by a change of music especially selected for her grand entrance, but by the entire gathering of guests rising to their feet in honor of the bride. In the nearly one hundred weddings I've officiated I've never had to ask people to rise. They do so instinctively. Neither, not once, have I ever noticed anyone remain seated when the lady of the hour walked the aisle. Can you imagine how disrespectful and dishonoring it would be to the bride and her family if someone refused to stand?

To pray, “Hallowed be your name” is to pray that no one remains seated but everyone rises in honor of the glory of the Father. More specifically, in asking for our Father's name to be hallowed, we are praying that nothing we do or say would in any way defame, discredit or distort God's good name.

Beloved, in ways seldom before, Christians are under the spotlight. People are watching us closely. What they think of our Father in Heaven will be largely determined by what they see in us, His children.

In teaching us to pray, “Hallowed be your name,” Jesus is challenging us to consider carefully how our words, behaviors and actions reflect upon Him. Think of your Facebook posts, your response to the waiter who messed up your order, the clerk who overcharged you, or your attitude toward coronavirus restrictions and requirements. Are your thoughts, words and actions making others think more and better of Jesus Christ? Is your life causing people to rise in honor of the Glory of God or are they more likely to remain seated because of what they see in you, His child? Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. May our whole lives bring people to their feet for you!

Grateful,
Ben