

# Public Prayer

## I. **Introduction:** Reformed theology & Reformed worship

## II. **Importance**

1. Expresses our dependence on the Holy Spirit
2. Means of experiencing the gospel
3. Foundation of congregational prayer life
4. Reverses current malaise

## III. **Preparing to Pray**

1. Public prayer builds on private prayer and piety of the one leading in prayer
2. Public prayer is not private prayer
  - i. public edification
  - ii. public concerns
3. Should be well-ordered, well-conceived, theologically mature, filled with Bible, and rhetorically effective
4. The Bible provides the language and patterns of prayer
  - i. prayers of the Bible
  - ii. Bible's teaching on prayer
  - iii. Bible's teaching on God, man, sin, redemption, sanctification, and mission, etc.

## IV. **Six Basic Prayers**

1. Invocation and prayer of praise
2. Confession and assurance of pardon
3. Thanksgiving
4. Intercessions and petitions – 5-fold
  - i. sanctification of saints
  - ii. church and ministry
  - iii. sick
  - iv. civil authority
  - v. all humanity
5. Illumination
6. Benediction

## V. **Resources**

1. Matthew Henry, *Method of Prayer*
2. Isaac Watts, *Guide to Prayer*
3. Samuel Miller, *Thoughts on Public Prayer*
4. Hughes Old, *Leading in Prayer*
5. Kenneth Boa, *Handbook to Prayer* and sequels
6. And, if you'd care for more of my thoughts on the subject: *The Pastor's Public Ministry*