



Jubilee Centre Seminar Series

12/12/2012: The Our Father and the Virtue of Gratitude, Dr. Kenneth Wilson, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, University of Birmingham

Abstract: A. Theological Framework. 1. To live with the recognition that the entire world in which one lives, and indeed one's own life and life experience, are gifts makes a difference to the way in which one thinks about one's relationship with the world, with others and with oneself. The Christian belief is that this is a fact of human life: the world is a dynamic creation not a happenstance, and human life – of course evolving and not the result of special creation – is God's gift. On reflection this will impact on the way in which one treats the world, other people and oneself, which in essence will be characterised by the virtue of gratitude. 2. It is a mistake to think that this involves some sort of obligation or indebtedness to God, for God's giving is entirely free and given as Christian theologians say, entirely of his grace and therefore without thought of return. He creates just because he wants to. B. The Our Father. 1. Moral behaviour is encouraged by good habits. 2. I shall explore the meaning and significance of the Our Father, is a reminder of the presence of God, the Giver, the inclusiveness of the Christian vision and the real possibilities implicit in it. C. Some questions for the understanding of what it is to be a responsible person. 1. Personal relationship underpins professional role.

