

God Is Holy

Sunday, May 12, 2019
Straight Paths Bible Church
Mike Miller

[Psalms 99:9](#) Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

[Leviticus 11:45](#) For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

- I. God is acceptable to most people in all his other attributes.
 - A. God's goodness, his mercy, his patience, his kindness, his generosity, and his love are attributes that appeal to anyone, so they are not offensive, even to a sinful person.
 - B. No word more fully describes the moral attributes of God than the word holy.
 1. All the attributes of God that are so appealing to most people come under the heading of his holiness.
 2. Not only those attributes that are appealing but those that are not so appealing are also based in his holiness - wrath, jealousy, etc.
 - C. In spite of all this, it is the fact that God is holy that causes most people to turn away from Him.
 - D. His holiness is offensive because it marks the great difference between God and sinful man.
 - E. The primary meaning of the word holy is separate, morally pure, and indicates the absence of sin.
 - F. Men desire a God they can identify with and until their sin is dealt with effectively they cannot identify with a holy God.
 - G. Furthermore, men do not want to be separate from this sinful world so they halt in their approach to God when they learn that He is holy.
 - H. Neither do men really desire to be morally pure in reality, but only in reputation, so this causes further hesitation in their drawing nigh to God.
 - I. All men know that if God is holy then those who are born of God will be holy, also.
 - J. So therefore, upon learning that being born again will include being made holy, most stop because they do not want to be holy in an unholy world.
 - K. The next logical step is to try to invent a plan whereby they can be saved now, but become holy later at some point in the future, while continuing to live a profane life here and now.

- II. God is altogether holy, but man is more or less holy as his heart is more or less sanctified.
 - A. We call a man holy when he is purified from evil and his life is regulated by divine precepts.
 - B. There is hardly anyone who will use the word holy to describe someone, no matter how religious they are – if they are not separated from the world in their dispositions and in their activities.
 - C. So in respect to people the word holy is used nearly as a synonym with good, godly, and pious.
 - D. Our personal holiness is our responsibility.

Leviticus 20:7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1. Our holiness is not something that God imputes to us or forces upon us in our daily life.
- E. Holiness means to be consecrated or set apart to a sacred use, or to the service or worship of God.
 1. The holy sabbath; holy oil; holy vessels; a holy nation; the holy temple; a holy priesthood, holy word, his holy name, the Holy Bible.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

- F. So to be holy is our duty and responsibility to God.
- G. It is in fact the command of God, just like other commandments that we take so seriously.
- H. We are called to be holy.

III. The fact that God's holiness is offensive to sinful people is obvious in the churches and religious practices of our time.

- A. Holiness is somewhat easier to understand when we look at its opposite.
- B. The opposite of holy is profane, which means common and unclean.
- C. Profane people have no regard or reverence for holy things or persons.
 1. The call to holiness has been replaced by the "come as you are" philosophy.
 2. Instead of preaching and teaching and living that encourages sinners to come to God and be lifted up out of their pit of sin, they are instead taught about a God that is just like them.
 3. Instead of reverence toward God He is referred to as "Daddy," or "the man upstairs," or a "cool dude."
 4. Great efforts are made to make Jesus look as common as they can make him look.
- D. Worship services have been made as common as they can possibly make them.
 1. Their clothing is common and much of the time profane.
 2. Their language and demeanor is common and profane.
 3. The service itself is common and profane - worldly, sensual music and even dancing.
- E. The Word of God has been made common and profane with all the versions with each one trying to outdo the other in commonness and profane street talk.
- F. The institutions of God have been made common and profane.
 1. Marriage, church membership, the ministry.

IV. So it is obvious that God is holy and sinful men do not like a God like that.

- A. They do everything they can to work around this attribute of God.
- B. But it is the one attribute for which we should be most thankful.
- C. That the Creator and the Ruler of the universe is holy is a fact that gives us hope not matter what is happening here on earth.
- D. God will be holy when heaven and earth are passed away, with all their unholy inhabitants.

- E. Anyone who is born of God will have a desire to be holy, because God is holy.
- F. Anyone who is born of God will strive to be holy and will sanctify themselves according to the light they are given.
- G. This is true without a doubt because the Bible makes it clear that heaven is a holy place with holy inhabitants.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

- H. Live for God, live a holy life, and do not be ashamed of it.
- I. It is not just a set of rules to live by, but a new birth, a change of heart, a change of attitude and affections, and a new creature, who identifies with God, who is holy.
- J. It is a desire to be like in his character, and a determination to do so, even if it is one little step at a time.