

HOLINESS OF GOD

Holiness is the basic characteristic of God. He is seen as many things such as love, light, and a consuming fire, but the basic ingredient of His nature is holiness. Moses declared, "...who is like thee, glorious in holiness." (**Exo 15:11**) We, as Christians, have a holy calling on our lives to follow in His steps. As children, therefore, we must understand our Father's holiness to know what He is really like and be like Him. For He says, "... be ye holy: for I am holy!" (**1 Pet 1:16**)

I. WHAT IS HOLINESS

DEFN: "Holiness" - The state of being separate, pure, clean, distinctly different, unique in contrast from anyone and anything else. One of a kind! That which is separate for one purpose - the service of God.

NOTE: Many things in the scriptures were called "holy" because they were to be used for separate, pure, distinctively different purposes.

A. HOLY VESSELS - These were vessels that had a peculiar, but unique purpose in the service of God.

- ❑ **1 Kin 8:4; 1 Chr 22:19; 2 Chr 5:5** - God called all the vessels used in His service in the tabernacle "the holy vessels".
- ❑ **Eze 22:26** - These priests put no difference between the holy and profane.

DEFN: "Profane" - to pollute; to defile; to treat as base or common; to debase.

- ❑ **Eze 44:23; Lev 10:10** - God stated He would teach them the difference between the holy and profane.

NOTE: Holy vs. profane. - At that time priests were using the holy vessels for common, everyday uses. They were deliberately not separating the vessels for the unique worship of God.

B. HOLY ALTAR - The altar was distinctly different and pure from any other altar on the earth. It was one of a kind. It represented Christ on the cross, the only true altar. One altar meant only one way to the Father (**John 14:6**).

- ❑ **Exo 29:37; Exo 40:10; Lev 10:12** - The altar was to be an altar most holy, and whosoever touched it must be most holy.

C. **HOLY SABBATH** - This day was to be separate and peculiar from the other days of the week. There was to be no work done on this day.

- ❑ **Exo 16:23; Exo 20:8; Exo 31:14-15; Neh 9:14** – The sabbath day was to be kept holy.

NOTE: There is no Christian sabbath day. Sunday is not the sabbath day, it is “the Lord's day” (**Rev 1:10**). The saints in the New Testament gathered on the first day not the last day of the week (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2**). The sabbath day, usually Saturday, was a day that represented Christ in foreshadowing. We are to rest in Christ and cease from our own labors to be saved. We enter into the Lord's rest who finished the works from the foundation of the world. Review **Heb 4:1-12** and **Col 2:16-23**

- ❑ **Exo 35:2** – Six days work should be done, but on the seventh day they were to honor a holy day, a sabbath of rest or be put to death.

NOTE: Notice the severity of God's statement. One would be put to death if he worked on the sabbath. This is a picture of Christ's rest. It is a sobering picture for anyone who tries to work his way to heaven. That person's end will be the second death, the lake of fire.

D. **HOLY CALLING** - This is a unique calling that the world cannot hear.

- ❑ **2 Tim 1:9** - You have been made a partaker of a distinctively different calling, a holy calling, that is not after the world but after the purposes of God.
- ❑ **Heb 3:1** - You are a part of the holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling. Consider it well!

E. **HOLY SCRIPTURE** - The Bible is distinctly unlike any other book in the world because it is God's Word.

- ❑ **2 Tim 3:15; Rom 1:2** - They are holy in that they are unequaled, and pure from error.

II. **THE HOLINESS OF GOD**

A. **HIS HOLY NAME** - His name is unique in all the universe.

- ❑ **Psa 33:21** - We have trusted in His holy name.
- ❑ **Psa 99:3; Isa 57:15** - His name is holy.
- ❑ **Psa 103:1; Psa 145:21** - Learn to bless His holy name.
- ❑ **Psa 105:3** - Glory ye in His holy name.
- ❑ **Isa 29:23** - They shalt sanctify His name.

- ❑ **Eze 39:25** - He is jealous for His holy name.
- ❑ **Luke 1:49** – Mary’s proclamation was “... holy is his name.”

B. DO NOT PROFANE HIS HOLY NAME

- ❑ **Lev 20:3; Lev 21:6; Lev 22:2; Lev 22:32** - The Lord commands man not to profane His holy name (**Exo 20:7**).
- ❑ **Eze 36:20-21; Eze 39:7; Amos 2:7** - The heathen profaned His holy name because of the testimony of His people. They lived for the world. You will cause the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme God by your inconsistent walk.

C. GOD DECLARES HIS HOLINESS

- ❑ **Isa 6:1-10** - The purpose of the vision Isaiah had of God on His throne with the seraphim circling above, was to declare to the world that the Lord of hosts is Holy, Holy, Holy!

NOTE: When men see God’s holiness they fall down and realize their own sin and guilt.

- ❑ **Rev 4:8-11** - The four beasts cry, “Holy, Holy, Holy!” day and night without any rest.

NOTE: The Lord designed these heavenly creatures full of eyes to watch Him and verify to the universe that He is holy. If He committed one sin, these creatures would immediately declare, “Unclean!” It is a comfort to know that the Lord does not require any more of you than He does of Himself. (**Pro 15:3; 2 Chr 16:9; Job 34:21; Pro 5:21; Pro 15:11; Jer 16:17; Jer 23:24; Heb 4:13**)

D. ASSAULT ON GOD’S HOLINESS

- ❑ **2 Kin 19:20-35; 2 Chr 32:14-19** - Sennacherib’s assault of God was on His holiness stating that the Lord God was no different from any other god. The ungodly heathen were challenging God’s uniqueness and unparalleled character. The Lord responded to prove the difference by destroying all of Sennacherib’s mighty men.
- ❑ **Isa 14:13-14** - Satan was cast out of heaven due to his assault on God’s holiness. Satan said, “I will be like the most High”, that was an attack on the holiness of God, His uniqueness and distinctiveness. The Lord stands alone above all of His creation as the “... only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; to whom be honor and power everlasting.” (**1 Tim 6:15-16**)

III. THE CHALLENGE TO BELIEVERS TO BE HOLY

A. FASHION YOURSELF DIFFERENTLY

- ❑ **1 Pet 1:13-16** - Don't fashion yourself after the former lusts of your ignorance. Be distinctively different because it is written, "Be ye holy; for I am holy."
- ❑ **Rom 12:1-2** - Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. Be not conformed to this world. Be unique, transformed, by having your mind renewed in the knowledge of Him. "...prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."
- ❑ **1 Pet 2:9** -You are "...a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people." Therefore live like it.

B. SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM EVIL

- ❑ **1 Pet 4:1-4** - Arm yourself with the mind of Christ and do not waste the rest of your life living to the lusts of men. They will think it is strange that you do not run to the same excess of riot that they do, but they do not understand God's holiness.
- ❑ **2 Tim 2:19-26** - "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
- ❑ **2 Cor 6:14-7:1** - Separate from unbelievers and touch not the unclean thing. "Cleanse yourself from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."
- ❑ **Tit 2:11-14** - The grace of God teaches you that you should deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.
- ❑ **Eph 5:3-18** - Let evil "... not be once named among you, as becometh saints;" "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." The light of holiness that shines from you will expose their sinful deeds. They will either hate the light or come to the light and worship God. (**John 3:20-21**)

NOTE: Whatsoever exposes is light. If a man wants to hide what he is doing or is afraid of others finding out what he is doing, it is darkness and it is sin! This is a wonderful test to use in your life. If you sense what you are doing has to be hidden from others because you would be ashamed if they found it out, then it is sin. Decide now to lay it aside and follow Christ.

- ❑ **John 7:7; John 15:19; 1 Thes 2:14-15; 1 John 3:13** – The world will hate you just like it hated Christ for His holiness. "The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master." (**Luke 6:40**)

C. DESIRE TO PURIFY YOURSELF

- ❑ **1 John 3:1-3** - The hope of seeing Him should cause you to purify yourselves as He is pure.
- ❑ **Jam 1:27** - Pure religion before God is to keep yourself unspotted from the world.
- ❑ **1 Thes 4:3-7** – “...this is the will of God, even your sanctification,” that you may know how to “possess your vessel” unto honor.
- ❑ **Heb 12:14** - If you desire to see and understand Him then you must follow peace and holiness.
- ❑ **2 Pet 1:3-11** - His divine power has given you all you need to live godly in this life through the knowledge of Him. He has given precious promises that you might be a partaker of His divine nature and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.
- ❑ **2 Pet 3:14** - Be diligent that you may be found in peace and without spot.

D. PUT ON THE NEW MAN

- ❑ **Col 3:5-17** - Mortify the deeds of the flesh by the power of the Spirit and put on the new man in Christ.
- ❑ **Eph 4:17-24** - Put on the new man which is created in righteousness and true holiness.
- ❑ **Rom 13:10-14** - Put on the armor of light and do not make provision for the flesh to fulfill your lusts.

NOTE: The armor of light is different from the armor of God (**Eph 6:10-18**). The armor of light has to do with your outward testimony to others. You must put on a holy walk in the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

- ❑ **2 Cor 4:3-7** - You are to shine with holiness for this lost and dying world. Your earthen vessel must be broken so the light of Christ can be seen. Remember the story of Gideon. (**Jud 7:15-21**)

NOTE: You have a treasure inside you that is a shining light. As with a light bulb, if the outside is dirty the light cannot be seen as brightly. The source of light has not weakened, only the perception of it by others has been obscured by the dirt.

E. LEARN TO HATE EVIL

- ❑ **Psa 119:128** - Believe His Word to be right and learn to “hate every false way”.

NOTE: You must learn to hate sin to be able to discern it and overcome it in your life. The difficult part about overcoming sin in your life is that you must first see it and then acknowledge it before the Lord. The godly learn to do this immediately (**Psa 32:5-8**). Remember, sin is deceitful and will harden your heart (**Heb 3:12-15**).

- ❑ **Job 1:1** - Follow the example of Job that teaches us to fear God and eschew evil.

DEFN: “Eschew” - To flee from; to shun; to avoid.

- ❑ **Deu 18:9-13** - Do not learn the heathen’s ways. Learn to be perfect, mature and complete, like your Heavenly Father. (**Matt 5:48**)

CONCLUSION:

Does the Spirit cry in you to say, “I want to be just like my Father?” Then be holy, be unique, distinctly different, and pure in your walk for Christ. Do not pattern yourself after the world in order to win them. They will simply justify themselves by you. Walk in a unique fashion so that they can see the difference. Remember, it is not the outward presentation as much as the inward presentation that will challenge the heart of a lost man for Jesus Christ. “... be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.” (**1 Tim 4:12**) “...renounce the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending yourself to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” (**2 Cor 4:2**)