

Holiness

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Day 1-I am Holy.....The Holiness of God



Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart and open your eyes to a clearer view of God's holiness and how that should impact your life, changing the way you think and act.

1. 1 Peter 1:15-16. *"But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

Why does Peter call believers to be holy?

Scholar's Corner: Holiness-

- a. The supremacy of God's infinite value and perfection above all things.
- b. God is absolutely and uniquely excellent (majesty) above all creation and without sin (purity).
- c. Transcendently separate, set apart, completely other.

2. Look up the word transcendent in the dictionary and write the definition.

3. How do the following verses describe the holiness of God?

a. *Exodus 15:11 "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"*

b. *Chronicles 16:27-29 "Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an*

offering and come before him! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.”

- c. *Isaiah 57:15 “For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.”*
 - d. *Isaiah 5:16 “But the Lord of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.”*
 - e. *Acts 3:14” But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you.”*
 - f. *Hebrews 7:26 “For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.”*
4. What two aspects of God’s holiness do you see from the definitions of holiness and from the verses above?

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5. *Revelation 4:8 “And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”*

Isaiah 6:3 “And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

- a. How is God’s holiness emphasized?

Scholar's Corner: "To mention something three times in succession is to elevate it to the superlative degree, to attach to it emphasis of super importance...The Bible never says that God is love, love, love, or mercy, mercy, mercy, or wrath, wrath, wrath, or justice, justice, justice..." – R.C. Sproul

- b. What are aspects of God's holiness expressed in these verses?

Picture and Ponder: "Glory is the radiance or manifestation of God's holiness." – J. Piper

6. *Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."*

Psalm 8:3-4 "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

Romans 1:20 "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

- a. How does God's creation reveal His holiness?

- b. What should be our response to that revelation?

7. What other responses does God's holiness require of us according to these verses?

Psalm 96:9, Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!"

Psalm 99:9 Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy!"

Revelation 15:4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."



Does your view of God cause you to tremble, fear, exalt, worship, and glorify Him? If not, maybe your view of God is fuzzy or inaccurate. It is tempting to create God in our own image, someone we can easily understand and explain, but God tells us that He is not like us (Psalm 50:21) and that His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8). When we don't have a high view of God as portrayed in the Bible, we do not treat Him as He deserves to be treated. Pick one or two of the scriptures from the last two days to meditate on and maybe even memorize. Ask God to continue to open your eyes to what His holiness means for your life.

Day 3- Be Holy..... Why is holiness important?

Scholar's Corner: Sanctification- the process of being made holy, becoming Christ like. Holiness when applied to things, places and people means that they are consecrated and set apart for the use of God.

8. What is the reason/purpose that God redeemed us and called us to be His own according to the following verses?
- a. *Ephesians 1:3-4* “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”
 - b. *2 Timothy 1:8-9* “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.”
 - c. *1 Thessalonians 4:7* “For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.”
9. Read the following verses and then summarize why holiness is important.
- a. *Hebrews 12:14* “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”
 - b. *Matthew 7:21* “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”
 - c. *1 Corinthians 6:9-10* “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor

the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

- d. James 2:14, 17 *“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”*

Picture and Ponder: “On the last day, God will not acquit us because our good works were good enough, but he will look for evidence that our good confession was not phony. It’s in this sense that we must be holy.” -Kevin DeYoung



Does it surprise you to know that one of the reasons God saved you was so that you would be holy? God chose you and set you apart to live in a way that reflects, however imperfectly, his holiness.¹ Have you given much thought to the fact that you are set apart for a special purpose? Since Jesus died so that you could be like him, does this calling to holiness have the proper priority in your life?

- ❖ Write down your positive thoughts and your negative thoughts about holiness.

- ❖ Ask God to change your thoughts and perspective toward holiness where needed and to begin to think the way he does on this subject.

1 Corinthians 2:11b-12 “So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.”

Day 4- Be Holy.....How are we made holy?

10. Who works in us to sanctify us according to the following passages?

- a. *John 17:16-17 “They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”*
- b. *1 Peter 1:2 “according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.”*
- c. *1 Thessalonians 5:22-23 “Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- d. *2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”*

Picture and Ponder: “The essence of holiness is not new behavior, activities, or disciplines. Holiness is new affections, new desires and new motives that then lead to new behavior.”
-Tim Chester

For Discussion: 1 Peter 1:15 says “be holy”. What do you think is significant about *be* holy as opposed to *do* holy things? (See Mark 7:6, 20-23 and Matthew 5:20 for help)

11. Read Philippians 2:12-13 in the NLT. *“Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”*

What does God do and what do we do in our process of becoming holy?

12. Read Romans 12:1-2. *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

According to verse 2, what two things bring about our transformation? (What has to happen and not happen for us to be transformed?)

What do you think is God’s main tool to renew our minds?

Picture and Ponder: Holiness is the habit of being one mind with God” –R.C. Ryle



Only God can create in us a desire to be like Him, to love the things He loves and to hate the things He hates. This is an inward transformation that the Holy Spirit begins to work in us when we become believers. Are you aware of that work in your heart, or are the things of the world drowning out His voice and distracting you from your true God-given desires?

- ❖ What is one practical step you can take to make room in your life to nurture this work of the Holy Spirit? (In what area of your life are you conforming to the world?)

- ❖ How can you cooperate more fully with this inner work of the Holy Spirit that will lead to new behavior? (What are you doing to renew your mind?)

Day 5- Be Holy.....What Does Holiness Look Like?

Picture and Ponder: “Commands show us what God is like, what he prizes, what he detests, what it means to be holy as God is holy.” –Kevin DeYoung

“I do not understand how a man can be a true believer unto whom sin is not the greatest burden, sorrow and trouble.” –John Owen

13. What are some ways the Bible describes our stance toward sin in the following passages?

What kinds of words are these?

How does this indicate what our attitude or thoughts should be toward the sin in our life?

Ephesians 4:31 “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.” (ESV)

Colossians 3:8 “But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. (NLT)

1 Peter 2:1 “So be done with every trace of wickedness (depravity, malignity) and all deceit and insincerity (pretense, hypocrisy) and grudges (envy, jealousy) and slander and evil speaking of every kind.” (AMP)

Hebrews 12:1 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” (NIV)

Colossians 3:5 “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” (ESV)

14. How do the following passages paint a picture of what holiness looks like?

What kinds of words are used in these verses to show how we must be intentional?

What motivations does Paul give in the first two passages listed, for the mandates stated here?

How do these motivations keep us from becoming legalistic?

Colossians 3:12-14 “Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Ephesians 5:1-2 “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”(NIV '84)

Ephesians 4:24 “Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Romans 12:9b “Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.”

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

For Discussion: What is the difference between morality and holiness? (Think about: What does holiness include that moralism doesn't? What is the source of each? What is the goal of each? What is the result of each?)



In our human nature we tend to be either list keepers- those who want a checklist of things to do to be holy, give us a list and we'll get it done! Or we tend to be lazy- those who are content to “rest” in God's grace, “free” from the tyranny of doing anything. (I am **not** talking about true rest from our works driven striving for approval from God; I am talking about laziness.) Or most likely we ricochet between the two depending on how we feel. The remedy for both extremes is to pursue Jesus. He is our picture of holiness and our power for holiness. Apart from a growing relationship with Him we become merely rule keepers, focusing on ourselves and satisfied with our own accomplishments. And in time growing weary and discouraged. As we pursue Jesus we grow to truly know him, to love what He

loves and hate what He hates, to understand his love for us and to love him in return and then to want to obey Him.

- ❖ Do you tend to be a list person or a lazy person?
- ❖ If you are on the lazy side, how do you need to be more intentional in your actions?
- ❖ If you are more on the list side, how will you focus more on abiding with Jesus?
- ❖ Spend some time meditating on this Puritan prayer and asking God to make it the cry of your heart.

“O how desirable, how profitable to the Christian life
is a spirit of holy watchfulness
and godly jealousy over myself,
when my soul is afraid of nothing
except grieving and offending thee,
the blessed God, my Father and friend,
whom I then love and long to please,
rather than be happy in myself!
Knowing, as I do, that this is the pious temper,
worthy of the highest ambition,
and closest pursuit of intelligent creatures and holy Christians,
may my joy derive from glorifying and delighting thee.”ⁱⁱ

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. What is one thing God impressed on you, convicted you about or something new you learned about holiness. How will knowing this impact the way you think and act? Write your thoughts. Be ready to share with the group.

ⁱ Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole in Our Holiness*

ⁱⁱ The Valley of Vision, A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions