
Holiness

Good Word Series, Message 3

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WHERE IT ALL STARTED -- God began challenging me back in February – to uncover His Holiness because I viewed it as a scary thing. His Holiness was what makes the fear of God a thing, and so I always thought it was just something to separate us (literally what holy means).

- Exodus 33:20 “But,” He said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.” Moses only saw the back of God yet was radiant.
- The priests took many precautions when entering the Holy of Holies. Star example. An article equated God’s Holiness to the “sun, it’s bright, it’s powerful, it radiates energy, it’s good for life and helpful to us, but it’s also dangerous if we get too close.” (the Bible project).
- Uzzah dies from touching the ark to keep it from falling.

The more I dove into Holiness, the more all my hesitancy unraveled. I thought Holiness was something that I couldn’t find within myself, but then I read verses like **Genesis 1:26** “Let us make man in our image...” so if Holiness is so intricately part of His design, then perhaps it’s also found its way into my design.

The word Holy is mentioned 611 times throughout the Bible. The first time the word holy is mentioned when Moses encounters the Burning Bush in Ex. 3:5.

Part 1: The Holiness of God

Foundations of Christian Doctrine: “The perfect Holiness of God speaks of absolute purity. He cannot sin nor tolerate sin. He is sinless perfection. Holiness is God’s inward character, and as such, it is underived (it is original to Him). He is perfectly holy in all He thinks, says, and does.” “God’s throne is established upon the attribute of Holiness. It’s the fundamental characteristic of God, even before the revelation of His grace and love.”

Jesus is holy. Being Holy also means He is the perfect sacrifice. But John writes about this Revelation 1:12-19. I began considering Holiness, and I realized there is no salvation without Holiness. God’s Holiness does separate Him from us, but a judge is separated from a prisoner in the same way. If God wasn’t holy, then He’s subject (or for our example, prisoner) to sin, and a prisoner cannot pardon another prisoner for their crimes. God’s Holiness allows Him to grant salvation. Talk about our view of the corrupt judicial system and how that affects our view of God. God has no negative attribute. **1 John 4:8** God is love; therefore, His love is holy. Love is in its purest form when God is present. His Holiness is a foundation upon which the rest of His Character is built. The grace, the hope, the security is built upon the Holiness of God. Who He is, is love – but even that is hinged on Holiness?

One of my favorite things is that the angels sing “Holy, Holy, Holy” not any other word. (**Rev. 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!”*) God is so holy that they sing it three times; 3 in the Bible is the number of “divine wholeness, completeness, and perfection.”

Part 2: We are called to be Holy

Holiness and Humanity. God’s holiness clashes with my humanity. After the fall, it was no longer natural for me to be holy, even though that’s what I was created for; instead, it became natural to sin. But we are called to be holy as He is holy (**Leviticus 20:26, 1 Peter 1:14-16**). But now, since the fall, His Holiness in me has to be sanctified, renewed, and restored, sometimes multiple times a day, to be complete. **Ephesians 4:20-24** *But that is not the way you learned Christ! – assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in him, as the truth is in*

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Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and Holiness. Our restored self was created for Holiness.

Holy: dedicated or consecrated (*having been made or declared sacred/represent the body and blood of Christ*) to God or a religious purpose, sacred. (of a person) devoted to the service of God. Morally and spiritually excellent.

How do we become holy?

Get to know the Holy One. God said to be Holy as He is Holy, get to know His Holiness. Uncover it through the Bible, uncover it through worship, uncover it through serving others (if it's good enough for Jesus and He was Holy, it's good enough for us).

Let Holiness challenge what you "know." "If God brings you to it, He'll bring you through." I made this statement as a blanket statement the other day to a difficult conversation I was having and realized I didn't believe it in the context of the conversation. I couldn't reconcile that statement with **James 1:17 (Every good and perfect gift is from above)**, and began to wonder how many people have we missed by dismissing the depth of their pain? How often have I dismissed the depth of my own pain? And if I don't realize the depth of pain, how could I ever know when I've achieved the fullness of my healing? – I let the Holiness of the Holy Spirit inside me question and convict what I thought I knew, allowing me to come to a fuller revelation of who God is in His Holiness and who I believe Him to be. When is the last time the Holy Spirit was offended by something that you said or believed, and if it's been awhile, have you been listening?

Be devoted to the service of God. **Romans 12:1** *I appeal to you, therefore, brothers (and sisters), by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship (your rational service).* What has God told you to do that you haven't done? What has He called you into, of which you haven't taken hold? Who has He created you to be that you aren't walking in? We have to be devoted to His service, not our own, letting him interrupt our day and rearrange our priorities. We become Holy when we are in tune with Him, what He wants to do and accomplish in and through us.

Moral and Spiritual Excellence. **1 Peter 1:15-16 AMP** *But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your conduct [be set apart from the world by your godly character and*

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moral courage]; because it is written, “You shall be holy (set apart), for I am Holy.” His Holiness should produce a good amount of reverent fear inside of us that leads us to obedience. Our Holiness is what sets us apart from the world. It assures that we are constantly moving toward sanctification. That sanctification process allows us to move toward Holiness as God confronts different areas of our lives in different seasons.

Why is Holiness important? **Hebrews 12:11TPT & 14ESV** *Now all discipline seems to be more pain than pleasure at the time, yet later it will produce a transformation of character, bringing a harvest of righteousness and peace to those who yield to it. ...In **every** relationship, strive for peace, and run swiftly toward Holiness, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.* In EVERY relationship, we choose peace, and somehow that leads us to Holiness. The only time I don’t is when Jesus is in the temple turning over tables. Talk about our using our Christianity for being an “influencer,” His worship is not for profit. I continually look to the example of Jesus, who was in human form yet remained holy his whole life, and He always chooses peace. Every person He meets with, He maintains peace, even while being arrested and accused. He is Holiness exemplified.

Rest

Every time I turn around these days, I feel like someone is giving me something to work on. I’m being “inspired” to make myself better, make my body better, grow my thinking, get out, and do something about the condition of the world. But one of the most beautiful things I’ve found is that of all the commandments, God only called one holy, and that was the Sabbath. **Exodus 31:12-14** *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord who makes you holy. Observe the Sabbath because it is holy to you.’”* And rest is not laziness. I think that’s part of the reason why He tells us to keep it holy because He wants our rest to remain pure, to restore us. He also doesn’t want us to feel bad about our rest. Which is, I think, another reason He desires to keep it Holy. That rest, that Sabbath is supposed to be spent with Him, inviting Him into our rest so that we’re able to make memories, recover, restore and have God be a part of that process. Turn off the TV, turn off your phone, eat a good meal, spend some time outside and let God restore. It’s one of the ways that we can get closest to His Holiness.

Sub Note: Glory is God’s Holiness revealed.

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