

**“The Holiness of God”
Isaiah 6:1-5
Sunday, July 7, 2019
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee**

INTRODUCTION

1. VERSES:

a. Is. 6:3, “...Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts...”

b. Rev. 15:4 “...For You alone are holy...”

2. The #1 reason people have misconceptions about the character and conduct of God is that they fail to comprehend the attribute of His holiness.

3. The holiness of God is His preeminent attribute

1) “...all would be uncomely without holiness to adorn them. Should this be sullied, all the rest would lose their honour...: [just] as, at the same instant the sun should lose its light, it would lose its heat, its strength, its generative and quickening virtue. ...purity is the splendour of every attribute in the Godhead. His justice is a holy justice, His wisdom a holy wisdom, His power a ‘holy arm’ (Ps. 98:1).”¹

b. The preeminence of this attribute over the other attributes of God is demonstrated in that (2):

1) **#1**: it is the only attribute of God that is referred to in a triplet in scripture

a) Is. 6:3, “And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”

b) Rev. 4:8, the angels “...do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

2) **#2**: All of God’s other attributes are subject unto His holiness

a) Psm. 5:4, “For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.”

3) Because God is holy, He has an utter hatred of sin:

a) God is so holy that Job 15:15 says, “...the heavens are not clean in His sight.”

¹ Stephen Charnock, *Existence and Attributes of God*, II, 113.

b) Habakkuk 1:13, “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness....”

I. HOLY SOVEREIGN (God is holy)

A. HOLINESS DEFINED:

1. **EXCLUSIVELY**—absence of sin

2. **INCLUSIVELY**—presence of all moral purity

3. John Gill defined holiness as: “Holiness is the purity...of His nature; whose nature is so pure, as to be without spot or stain, or any thing like it: he is light and purity itself, and in him is no darkness or impurity at all; as ‘he is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity,’ so he is of a purer heart and mind than to have one sinful thought in it: his thoughts are not as ours; he is the pattern of purity and holiness....”²

3. 1 Jn. 1:5, “God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.”

4. The root meaning of the word, “holiness,” is (2):

a. #1: “SEPARATION”

1) Hebrews 7:26, “For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners....”

2) Ex. 33:

(a) Verse 18, Moses asks God to show him His glory

(b) God responds to Moses’ request in verse 20, “But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’”

3) Ps. 24:3, “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His Holy Place?”

4) 1 Sam. 6:20, “Who is able to stand before this holy God?”

5) God’s holiness is not merely a **PASSIVE** hatred of sin, but is also an **ACTIVE** hostility toward sin

6) Ex—Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2, Each one of them took a censor, “...and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.”)

² John Gill, *A Body of Doctrinal and Practical Divinity*, p. 73.

b. #2: “WITHDRAWN,” “CUT OFF,” “TO SET APART”

1) EX: Tabernacle and Temple foreshadowed this

2) “Withdrawn”:

(a) Hab. 1:13, “He is of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on iniquity.”

(b) Heb. 12:29, “Our God is a consuming fire.”

(i) EX: of sun, temperature at the core is 25 million degrees Fahrenheit

5. Holiness applies to all members of the Godhead:

a) The Father is called, “the holy Father” (Jn. 17:11), by Christ

b) The Son is called, “the holy One of God” (Mk. 1:24)

c) The third member of the Godhead is called, “the Holy Spirit”

E. HOLINESS DEMONSTRATED

1. Job 40:4, “I am vile”

2. Job 42:6, “I abhor myself and I repent in dust and ashes”

3. Rm. 7:24, “O wretched man that I am!”

4. Is. 6:1, “the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train did fill the temple”

5. Is. 6:5, “Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the king the LORD of hosts.”

6. Uzzah (2 Sam. 6:6-7)

7. Rev. 15:4, “You alone are holy.”

8. But the FOREMOST example of the holiness of God is when Christ cried from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?”

a) “Not all the thunderbolts of Divine judgment which were let loose in the Old Testament time, not all the vials of wrath which shall yet be poured forth on an apostate Christendom during the unparalleled horrors of the Great Tribulation, not all the weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth of the damned in the Lake of Fire

ever gave, or ever will give, such a demonstration of God's inflexible justice and ineffable holiness, of His infinite hatred of sin, as did the wrath of God which flamed against His Son on the Cross. Because He was enduring sin's terrific judgment, He was forsaken of God."³

9. How then can sinful man ever be saved? Holiness can be applied to man:

a) **POSITIONAL**

- (1) Hebrews 12:14, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord"
- (2) 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

b) **PRACTICAL**

- (1) Leviticus 11:44, "For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

³ Arthur W. Pink, *The Seven Sayings of the Saviour on the Cross*, p. 72.