

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

WEEK 17 – HOLINESS

Book recommendation: RC Sproul – The Holiness of God

<i>** Communicable – We share with God</i>	<i>**Incommunicable – Unique to God</i>
1. <i>Love</i>	10. Omniscience
2. <i>Jealousy</i>	11. Incomprehensibility
3. <i>Graciousness</i>	12. Glory
4. <i>Just</i>	13. Majesty
5. <i>Wrath</i>	14. Sovereignty
6. <i>Merciful</i>	15. Omnipresence (& Immanence)
7. <i>Goodness</i>	16. Holiness
8. <i>Faithfulness</i>	
9. <i>Wisdom</i>	

Introduction

What Does This Attribute Mean?

Holy = adjective meaning pure, morally and spiritually perfect; sinless, pre-eminently good; pious, sacred, consecrated

Holiness = the state or quality of being holy, moral and spiritual purity, freedom from sin

Biblical Definition: Let's try to get to a Biblical definition for clarity:

Is. 43:14 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I send to Babylon and bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice. **15** I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."

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Ex. 3:1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. **3** And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." **4** When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **6** And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

.....**Ex. 3:10** Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." **11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" **12** He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." **13** Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Lev. 11:44 For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. **45** For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."

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1Pet. 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

AW Tozer stated it this way: “Holy is the way God is.”

To be holy He does not conform to a standard. He is that standard. He is absolutely holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is. Because he is holy, His attributes are holy; that is, whatever we think of as belonging to God must be thought of as holy. (AW Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, p105-106)

New Testament Passage

John 17:11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

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Stephen Charnock

The holiness of God is his glory, as his grace is his riches: holiness is his crown, and his mercy is his treasure. This is the blessedness and nobleness of his nature; it renders him glorious in himself, and glorious to his creatures, that understand any thing of this lovely perfection. Holiness is a glorious perfection belonging to the nature of God. (Stephen Charnock. The Existence and Attributes of God, Vol 2, p110).

He is called light, as impurity is called darkness; both in this sense are opposed to one another: he is a pure and unmixed light, free from all blemish in his essence, nature, and operations. (p111)

Does Scripture Teach That God Exhibits This Attribute?

Ex. 15:11 “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

1Sam. 2:2 “There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

Psa. 78:41 They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

Psa. 89:35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David.

Psa. 96:9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Psa. 98:1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Is. 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.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, **47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48** for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; **49** for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Acts 3:14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

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!”

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Mark 1:23 And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, **24** “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”

How Does This Attribute Affect the Christian?

1 – God’ Holiness & Our Worship

2 – Because of Sin, God Has Become Common to Us

3 – Universal Whole Life Holiness

Morally & Ethically Separate

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Worldview of Separation

Stephen Charnock

This is the prime way of honoring God. We do not so glorify God by elevated admirations, or eloquent expressions, or pompous services of him, as when we aspire to a conversing with him with unstained spirits, and live to him in living like him. The angels are not called holy for applauding his purity, but conforming to it. ... By this we honor him in that perfection which is dearest to him, and counted by him as the chiefest glory of his nature. (Stephen Charnock. The Existence and Attributes of God, Vol 2, p201-202).