

# GOD IS HOLY

Text: 1 Peter 1:10–16

Inv: Holy, Holy, Holy

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## Introduction:

- 1. There is a strange and beautiful paradox in knowing God...**
  - a. The More You Know God—the more aware you are of your own sins—Humility
  - b. The Less You Know —the less you are aware of your own sins—Arrogance
- 2. Think About the Times Someone was Confronted by the Glory of God’s Holiness**
  - a. Paul was confronted by Christ—which left him grieving over his own sins
  - b. Isaiah found himself in the presence of God—and became acutely aware of his own sin
  - c. John saw the glory of God holding 7 stars in His right hand and His face shining like the sun  
“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid, I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. (1:17)
- 3. God is Holy — which is amazing and frightening at the same time!**  
**because Holiness is the requirement for existence in His presence**  
**Which is Why God commands: ‘Be Holy For I Am Holy’**

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## I. THE FACT OF HOLINESS: Our God is Holy

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### A. THE RADIANT HOLINESS OF GOD IS BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION

- 1. It’s Very Possible Holiness May Be the Most Exalted Attribute of God...**
  - a) Because when the Angels Worship God in Heaven they do not say:
  - b) “Eternal, Eternal Eternal, or “Faithful, Faithful, Faithful”, or “Mighty...” or “Wise...”
  - c) What Do They Say? (**Revelation 4:8**) Holy Holy Holy
- 2. Nothing Can Be Compared to the Holiness of God...**
  - a) God is Far and Above All (**Isa 40:25-26**)
  - b) No One is Holy Like God (**1 Samuel 2:2**)
  - c) Because God Alone is Holy (**Rev. 15:4**)

### B. WHAT IS HOLINESS?

- 1. In Old Testament:  $\psi\tau\tau$  (qādaš). to be holy, to be hallowed, to be sanctified.**  
Signifies being set apart and separate, either intrinsically (in the case of God) or secondarily (through rituals or contact with what is already holy).
- 2. In NT: ἅγιος (hagios). adj. holy, set apart, consecrated, dedicated, saints.**  
Refers to the quality of God who is transcendentally distinctive, unique, majestic, perfect, and pure.

### C. OUR GOD IS UNIQUELY INTRINSICALLY HOLY...

- 1. GOD IS INTRINSICALLY HOLY...**
  - a) There Are No Degrees of Holiness with God—He is Perfectly, Uniquely Holy
- 2. EVERYTHING EMANATING FROM GOD IS HOLY**
  - a) God’s character is Holy (**Exod 15:11**)

- b) God's name is Holy (**Lev 20:3, 22:32**)
- c) God's word is Holy (**Jer 23:9, Psa 105:42**)
- d) God's Dwelling Place is Holy (**Isaiah 57:15**)
- 3. **GOD IS PURE—God is Light and in Him is no Darkness (1 John 1:5)**
- 4. **GOD IS PERFECT (Psalm 18:30) He Cannot Make a Mistake!**
- 5. **GOD IS SINLESS — He is Perfectly Morally Pure**  
**and SINCE GOD IS HOLY HE HATES SIN... (Psalm 5:4)**
  - a) **That Might Sound Strange or Offensive...**  
**But Consider what it would be like to have cancer...**
    - (1) If your body was infected with cancer...
      - You wouldn't love the cancer and hate your body
      - You would love your body but hate the cancer
    - (2) You would do everything you could to heal your body...
      - and everything you could to destroy the cancer inside you!
  - b) **In the Same Way God Loves Us—but Hates any Sin within us!**  
**and would Never Cause Anyone to Sin! (James 1:13–14)**  
**He is the Only One Who Offers the Cure for Sin!**
- 6. **GOD'S VERY HOLINESS is the Standard for Existence in His Presence**
  - a) (**Psalm 5:4; Habakkuk 1:12a, 13a**)
  - b) This is what's frightening about the holiness of God!
  - c) Nothing but pure holiness can exist in His presence!
  - d) This is why the angels that sinned were cast out of His presence (2 Peter 2:4)
  - e) This is Why Unrepentant Sinners will be cast out of His presence as well!

## **II. THE REQUIREMENT OF HOLINESS: Be Holy for I Am Holy**

### **A. HOLINESS IS THE STANDARD FOR EXISTENCE IN HIS PRESENCE— AND SEEING HIS HOLINESS IS BOTH MAJESTIC & FRIGHTENING!**

- 1. **Isaiah 6 The Seraphim around the throne: Holy, Holy, Holy (v.1-4)**
- 2. **Isaiah was Devastated and could only see his own sin (v.5)**
- 3. **But God Did Not Leave Isaiah That Way! (6:6-7)**

### **B. HOLINESS IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR EXISTENCE IN GOD'S PRESENCE— GOD IS HOLY AND HE CALLS FOR US TO BE HOLY**

- 1. **God said: Be Holy for I Am Holy (1 Peter 1:15–16)**
  - a) Peter quotes this command from Leviticus where God repeats this many times
  - b) Holiness is the Requirement for Existence in God's Presence! (**Hebrews 12:14**)
- 2. **The Question is Not WHAT IS REQUIRED—BUT HOW?!**
  - a) **here Are Two Words Translated Holy...**
  - b) **The 1st: (Hagios)** Refers to the Intrinsic and Perfect Holiness of God...
  - c) **The 2nd: (Hagiazō)** Refers to That Which is Made Holy by God...  
Made Holy By Ceremonial or Ritual Contact or Association

**3. This is what happened to Isaiah When God had an angel take a hot coal from the heavenly altar and touched Isaiah's lips...**

a) Isaiah was made clean to stand before the awesome holiness of God!

**4. Hagiazo has the same root word as HOLY but is also translated: SANCTIFY**

Sanctification: "to consecrate, to make holy" (or: to make one Righteous)

**C. GOD MADE A WAY FOR YOU TO BECOME HOLY IN HIS SIGHT**

**1. In the OT—God Made a Way to Sanctify His People Israel...**

a) Daily Sacrifices were offered morning and evening in the Temple

b) Once a Yr on the Day of Atonement the High Priest had to offer the blood of a lamb  
Offered for Himself First—then for the Sins of the People...

c) But a Priest could not touch anything unclean for they would no longer be holy

(1) Could Not Touch anyone with Leprosy

(2) Could Not Touch a Dead Body

(3) Could not be in contact in any way with anyone defiled or unclean with sin

**2. But When Jesus came to Earth in Human Form...**

a) Jesus Touched a man with Leprosy!

—But it did not make Jesus unclean—it healed the man's leprosy!

b) Jesus touched a Dead Body!

—but it did not make Jesus unclean—it raised that dead body back to Life!

c) Jesus made contact with a defiled person!

—a woman who had an issue of blood for 12 yrs reached out and touched the hem of His garment—But it didn't make Jesus unclean—it healed the woman!

**3. HOW? WHY? Because Jesus is Intrinsically Holy! God the Son in human form**

a) What None of Them Knew at the time—Jesus Was going to the Cross...

b) TO BE A HOLY SACRIFICE! The Only Only Sacrifice that could turn away God's wrath against Sin and Sanctify Sinners who deserved death

c) His blood is available to sanctify any and all who would humble themselves in faith and obedience to touch the blood to be cleansed of all sin

**4. When Jesus Was Crucified He Cried Out: Tetelestai 'It is Finished!'**

**Tetelestai means: Paid in Full—Jesus Gave it All to Pay it All For You!**

a) When He Cried Out He gave up His spirit and the Veil of the Temple was torn in Two  
(Mark 15:37–39)

b) The Veil that separates the Most Holy Place where the High Priest entered once a year on day of atonement.

c) That veil was torn and Now We Have Access into the Holy of Holies through Christ  
(Hebrews 10:19–20)

**5. God Has Made a Way For You and I to Be Holy—**

a) Through the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross (Colossians 1:21–22)

b) Jesus offered Himself as a Holy Sacrifice to God (Hebrews 10:10; 9:12–15)

**6. We Come in Spiritual Contact With His Blood—When We are Crucified with Him, Baptized into His Death and Raised in Newness of Life! (Rom. 6:3–4)**

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### III. THE HONOR OF HOLINESS: Living a Holy Life for God

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#### A. PARABLE OF WEDDING FEAST: A Parable of Being Made Holy...

1. First invited thought of the invitation as a burden—too busy, not interested
2. Second group was honored to be invited—they wanted to be there
3. But then there was one who was not wearing a wedding garment...
  - a) The King Approached this man and asked—where is your wedding garment?  
(He was speechless)
  - b) The King told His servants: Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for many are called but few are chosen.
4. Isaiah said: All our Righteousness is like Filthy Rags...  
But the KING Has Given Us a Robe of Righteousness! (Isaiah 61:10)
5. BUT WITH THE MAGNITUDE OF THE GIFT—  
IS THE MAGNITUDE OF THE TRAGEDY:
6. God Offers a Robe of Righteousness made white by the blood of the lamb!  
—But We Reject it For Our Own Self-Righteous Rags!
  - a) Wait a Minute Preacher—I'm a Good Person, ask my friends on FB they know!
  - b) I Join ALL the Right Causes — I Sign ALL the Right Petitions
  - c) I Vote For the Right Politicians! — I Stand Up For Social Justice!
  - d) SO DON'T TELL ME WHO'S RIGHT and WRONG—I ALREADY KNOW!!!
7. REALLY? And Your Going to stroll into the Throne Room of God...  
in your Sunglasses and Flip Flops and Tell God Your Holy?!
  - a) What is your answer when He Asks You: Where is Your Wedding Garment?  
Where is your Robe made White by the Blood of the Lamb?
  - b) You'll Be Speechless—in that moment you will realize your clothed in your filthy rags
  - c) To Reject the Blood of Jesus For Your Own Self-Righteousness  
is an Insult to a Holy God (Hebrews 10:28–29)

#### B. HOLINESS IS A PRIVILEGE—A GIFT OF GRACE

1. To Be Holy as God is Holy is Radical Spiritual Transformation!
  - a) Self-Help Books Won't Do It!
  - b) Social Causes that Make You Feel Good About Yourself Won't Do It!
  - c) Telling Yourself You're a Good Person Won't Do It!
2. The Robe Made White By the Blood of the Lamb! (Revelation 7:9–17)

#### CONCLUSION:

### GOD IS HOLY > GOD CAN MAKE YOU HOLY > HE WANTS YOU TO BE HOLY

1. He is More Interested in Your Holiness than your happiness
2. Which is Why He Gave the Greatest Gift of All...
3. A Robe of Righteousness Offered by the King (Gal 3:26-27 NASB)