

The Holiness of God

Part 1

I Peter 1:13-16; I Thes. 5:23-24; I John 3:1-3

Introduction and Quick Overview

What is Holiness? A good synonym is Godliness "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

Positionally – It is what we are "in Christ" "accepted or welcomed in the Beloved"

Practically – It is what we are to be in the world "Be ye holy..."

Prophetically - It is what we will be fully and completely when we see Him

Two thoughts about "Practical Holiness" - The one area we have some involvement

Holiness is not something we achieve by our own efforts – it is a reflection of God's character produced in us by God himself.

We open the door to that reflection by confession of sin, submissiveness to the Holy Spirit, feeding on the Word of God, and maintaining fellowship with God

The Twofold Character of God in perfect "balance"

God is holy – truth & justice - "bring judgment"

God is love – grace & mercy - "suspend judgment"

The requirements of both were satisfied at the Cross

The Theme of Peter's Epistles

Holy used 14 times; love used 6 times

God's voice "I am Holy" therefore "I expect you to be holy"

The Theme of John's Epistles

Holy used 2 times; love used 43 times

God's voice "I am love" therefore "I expect you to be loving"

The Background of Peter

Peter seemed to be "set aside" in a special appointment within Purposes of God:

Satan demanded to capture him – Luke 22:31-32

Resurrected Christ appeared first to Peter – I Cor. 15:5

Christ commissioned him to feed His sheep – John 21:15-17

Christ promised him an extended life span – John 21:18

Peter is the first to preach gospel in the NT Church – Acts 2

He was aware of this holy calling – 2 Pet.1:3, 10-11

The Background of John

John held an abiding place of intimacy w/ Christ – John 21:20

Five times John introduces in the Gospel as the "disciple whom Jesus loved"

John knew the intimate fellowship of Christ – I John 1:1-3

The key to fellowship is holiness - I John 1:5-7

These two disciples define the meaning of the word "Holy"

Peter – knew of a holy calling – set apart unto God's purposes

John – knew of a holy fellowship – separated from sinful life

These two elements of holiness have a complementing and

reciprocal relationship.

The Holy calling motivates Holy behavior.

The Holy behavior confirms our Holy calling.

Holy Calling gives us an entrance of Holy Fellowship with God.

Holy Behavior brings basis to enjoy the Holy Fellowship of God.

Common misunderstanding: Holiness is how we behave

Simply put – Holiness is who we are and how we are expected to behave, in light of who we are.

The unbeliever has an expectation of how "Holy Joes" are to behave in the world.

When we fail to represent Christ-likeness we become to them as a huge stumbling block:

Share some testimonial to this regard

Holiness is further understood by a word study.

The NT Language:

G40 – *hagios*; derived from three root words:

agos - a thing of awe, an awful thing

hagnos – properly clean and pure

chag chag (Heb. origin) – solemn, sacred, sacrificed

Two Primary Thoughts:

Divinely sacred – set apart for the purposes of God

Morally clean – set apart from the sinful ways of man

The NT Usage of the word “Holy”

Found 181 times; 93 times of the Holy Spirit

Used 88 times of things other than the Holy Spirit

7x – of God

7x – of the Temple place and altar

5x – of angels

4x – prophets

4x – a kiss

Used of believers:

15x times – in the English it is translated “saints”

So as a believer in Christ – the Bible calls us “the holy ones”

Consider Phil. 1:1 and Col. 1:2

Read it with the word “Holy” or “Holies”

Are we known of as “the holy ones” or “the holies”

A parallel term is “godliness” - 2 Pet. 1:3

Do we shy away from being called Holy or Godly?

Our calling is to the Holiness of God – 1 Pet. 1:15

The call of God is the manifestation of His purposes “in time” for His divine purposes “in eternity” – Rom. 8:28-30

Believers are “called according to His purpose” - What is His Purpose for time and eternity?

“to be confirmed to the image of His Son”

This is holiness – this is godliness

I am holy – I want you to be holy.

The angels understand this truth about God

“Holy, Holy, Holy” Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8

When angels look at us – do they see holiness?
“because of the Angels...”

Consider the Purpose of our calling

1 Pet. 1:15 “as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy”

Rom. 1:6-7 “the called of Jesus Christ..called to be holy”

1 Cor. 1:2 “sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy”

1 Thes. 4:7 “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness”

Eph. 1:4 “According as he hath chosen us in Him...that we should be holy”

2 Tim. 2:9 “and called us with an holy calling”

Heb. 3:1 “holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling”

This gives 2 Pet. 1:10 a new meaning

This is not referring to your salvation

Not “make sure you are saved” but make sure you are holy

Be sure you are living set apart unto the holiness of God

This is what you are called to be

In fellowship with Christ – you will not fail

“we have a holy calling” = means “we have a calling unto holiness”

It is of supreme importance that believers understand this calling – Eph. 1:17-18

It is to be placed into the eternal purposes of God as one who is holy as He is holy. 1 Pet. 1:15-16

We are to be a “holy priesthood” and a “holy nation”