

A Thoughtful Conversation on Holiness

Selected Scriptures

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What Exactly is Holiness?

The primary meaning of *holy* is 'to cut' or 'separate.' God is the most unique, powerful, beautiful, and good being in all the universe. He is distinct:

1. From all that is finite & earthly – God is _____ over creation.
2. From all that is unclean & defiled – God is _____ in all His character.

How does God's holiness intersect humanity?

- First encounter of God and his holiness is when Moses discovers the burning bush. – Exodus 3.
- The Children of Israel construct the Tabernacle (Heb *mishkan* "dwell," "rest"), a portable central place of worship following their wilderness wanderings. – Exodus 33

- The Temple - Isaiah Encounters God's Holiness – Isa 6:3-7.
 1. God's holiness is so pure & good in _____ to humans living in a world of sin. V 3b
 2. Faced with the reality of moral _____, Isaiah is struck in the heart with terror before God. V 5
 3. Instead of being destroyed, Isaiah is _____ by God's holiness. Vv 6-7

- Human History Encounters God as Man
 - ◇ Dual nature – 100% fully God and 100% fully man, not 50%/50% God and man.
 - ◇ Creator, who is co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit and is not a created being.
 - ◇ While virgin-born and sinless, dies a substitutionary death to satisfy God's judgment against sin.
 - ◇ Bodily resurrection vindicates his teachings and claims of divinity.

- Jesus Christ becomes human, _____ amidst humankind and is the full & final revelation of God John 1:14
 - ◇ *The Word became flesh* -

◇ *Dwelling* –

◇ *seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son* –

- Jesus Christ announces that he is the _____, where people meet God's holiness face to face John 2:19; Mt 12:6

- Diseased and unclean people encounter Jesus – Mt 8:1-3; John 4:21-26
 1. People's uncleanliness *should have* made Jesus unclean. Rather, His holiness and purity _____ to them, healing and restoring their bodies.
 2. Impurity does not come from what _____ or enters the body. Rather, it results from the moral corruption due to sinful desires. Mk 7:14-23

- The World Encounters God's New Temple, Jesus' People - 1 Cor 3:16-17; Eph 2:19-21; 1 Peter 2: 9-10

Christians are described as: God's temple indwelt by the Holy Spirit
Fellow citizens with God's people and members of Jesus' household
A holy temple in the Lord, _____, Royal priesthood,
Holy nation, God's special possession, People of God

So What?

Practically Speaking, the Holiness of God:

- 1) Is at the center of how you make _____ of life.
- 2) Confronts us with the _____ of sin.
- 3) Propels us to give ourselves to His mission of redeeming grace.
- 4) Is the reason we'll never outgrow God's grace.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you concisely explain God's Holiness without going down a long rabbit trail?
2. How would you help a younger believer navigate gray areas in light of God's Holiness and not sound legalist or holier than thou?