



# A Thoughtful Conversation on Holiness

Selected Scriptures

# Dissecting Holiness

01

WHAT  
EXACTLY IS  
HOLINESS?

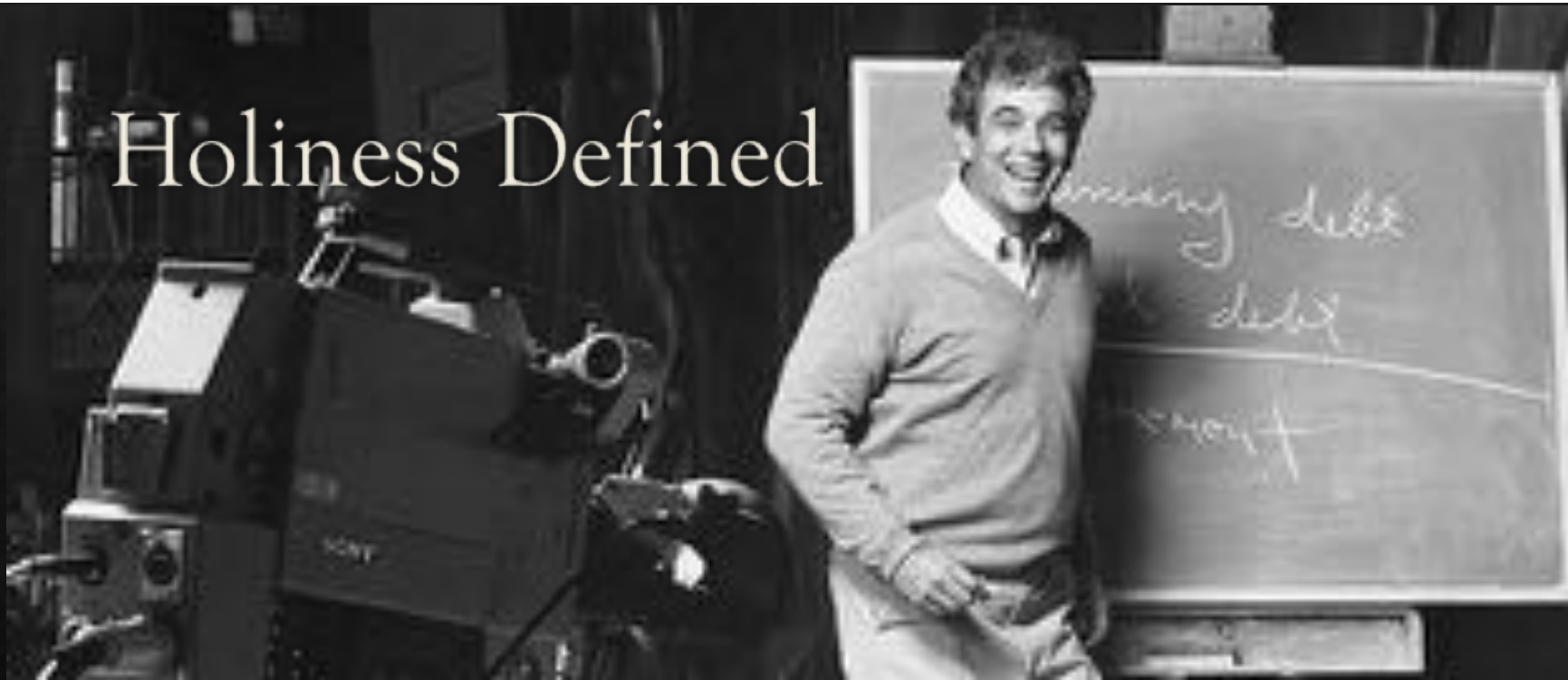
02

HOW DOES  
GOD'S  
HOLINESS  
INTERSECT  
HUMANITY?

03

SO WHAT?

# Holiness Defined



“The primary meaning of *holy* is ‘separate.’ It comes from an ancient word that meant, ‘to cut,’ or ‘to separate.’ Perhaps even more accurate would be the phrase ‘a cut above something.’ When we find a garment or another piece of merchandise that is outstanding, that has a superior excellence, we use the expression that it is ‘a cut above the rest.’ - R C Sproul

Saying “God is Holy” exclaims that He is the most unique, powerful, beautiful, and good being in all the universe. He is distinct:

- 1) From all that is finite and earthly – God is transcendent over creation.
- 2) From all that is unclean and defiled – God is perfect in all His character.



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If you're living around the temple or a priest working right in the temple, you're in proximity to God's holy presence – That's **dangerous**

Morally Impure



Temple Priests



Ritually Impure



The Prophet Isaiah  
Encounters God's  
Holiness  
Isaiah 6:3-7



<sup>3</sup> And they (seraphim) were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook  
and the temple was filled with smoke.

The Prophet Isaiah  
Encounters God's  
Holiness  
Isaiah 6:3-7 Cont'd



<sup>5</sup> “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”



<sup>3</sup> And they (seraphim) were calling to one another: **“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”**

<sup>5</sup> **“Woe to me!”** I cried. **“I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”**

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## Observations

1. God’s holiness is so pure & good in contrast to humans living in a world of sin. V 3b
2. Faced with the reality of moral impurity, Isaiah is struck in the heart with terror before God. V 5
3. Instead of being destroyed, Isaiah is transformed 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, tabernacles amidst humankind and is the full & final revelation of God

<sup>14</sup> The Word became **flesh** and made his **dwelling** among us. We have seen **his glory, the glory of the one and only Son**, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

- ◇ *The Word became flesh* - Jesus became fully human
- ◇ *Dwelling* – Gk “*pitched his tent*” related to the word used for the OT Tabernacle
- ◇ *seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son* – Disciples and others saw God’s holy presence through Jesus

Jesus Christ announces that he is the *New Temple*,  
where people meet God's holiness face to face

"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." John 2:19

"I tell you that something greater than the temple is here." Matt 12:6



## The Leper Encounters Jesus' Holiness

### Matthew 8:1-3

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>3</sup> Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

## The Samaritan Woman Encounters Jesus' Holiness John 4:1-26

<sup>21</sup> “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”



## Observations

1. Peoples' uncleanness *should have* made Jesus unclean. Rather, His holiness and purity transfers to them, healing and restoring their bodies.
2. Impurity does not come from what touches or enters the body. Rather, it results from the moral corruption due to sinful desires. Mark 7:14-23

# The World Encounters

## God's New Temple, Jesus' People

<sup>16</sup> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. Ephesians 2:19-21



## The World Encounters God's New Temple, Jesus' People

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

Chosen people

Royal priesthood

Holy nation

God's special possession

People of God



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# Practically Speaking, the Holiness of God:



Paul David Tripp

- 1) Is at the center of how you make sense of life.
- 2) Confronts us with the sinfulness 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.

## SITUATIONS YOU MIGHT FACE

You are having a bite to eat with a work colleague. During the conversation, you share your faith by describing a recent church service, that some guy talked about God's holiness. Your unchurched friend says, "How do you know God is real? You can't prove Him like you prove an algebra problem or a lab experiment."

**How would you concisely explain holiness without going down a long rabbit trail?**

**Remember. This is just lunch time.**

Merriam-Webster.com defines gray area as "an area or situation in which it is difficult to judge what is right and what is wrong." Christians label some issues as "gray areas"—a category defined as *actions that Scripture doesn't clearly identify as "sinful" or "non-sinful" for all people in all places at all times.* **How would you help a younger believer navigate gray areas in light of God's holiness and not sound legalist or holier than thou?**