**The Holiness of GOD**

[The holiness of God | The Bible Project](https://bibleproject.com/explore/holiness/) What does it mean to be holy?

*Leviticus 19:2 2 “… You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.*

So I started this study because I felt there might be times where I was holding God’s Holiness in contempt (not giving it the respect it deserved). There where times in prayer where I would remember something I needed to do and would just get up and walk away (Yes, in the middle of Talking to God) or times when studying my Bible and I would set it down to answer a call. Have you ever caught yourself texting in church or reading your emails?

Could you imagine being in a conversation with a significant person, maybe a King, a President or maybe just your boss, and then just walking out in the middle of a conversation (“hang on Mr. president I have a call coming in”). You would never do that. How could you treat a Holy God that way. I felt if I could truly understand His Holiness then I would hold our relationship in a much higher respect. The question then is:

**So What does the bible say about Gods Holiness**

God calls His people to be holy

*Leviticus 20:26 You shall be* ***holy*** *to me, for I the Lord am* ***holy*** *and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.*

God cannot approve of Evil

*Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are* ***too pure*** *to approve evil, And You cannot look on wickedness with favor.*

He is 3 times holy and fill the Earth with His Glory

*Isaiah 6:3 And one called out to another and said, "****Holy, Holy, Holy****, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."*

# In Revelation 4 John is called up to See Gods thrown. John tells us:

*…I saw a throne in heaven, and someone was sitting on it. The one sitting there looked* ***like gray quartz and red quartz****. There was a rainbow around the throne which looked* ***like an emerald ……****In the center near the throne and around the throne were four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back.  … Without stopping day or night they were singing, “****Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and who is coming.”***

“**Can man truly comprehend the holiness of God?”**

Looking at the verses above you get the feeling that the writers were at a loss for words. There is just nothing on this earth that could adequately describe God or his holiness. But understanding God’s holiness is foundational to understanding who God is.

 To begin with we need to understand the word Holy. We find in the Merriam Webster dictionary that Holy is to be **“exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness.”**

The words “Worthy of Complete Devotion” says a lot if you find it difficult to stay focused in Church or during prayer

*Isaiah 6:3 “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”*

Biblical Hebrew, and other historical languages, had no punctuation to emphasize a word (like using !), repeating a word was commonly used to show emphasis. Repeating something twice meant it was really important. We find this in the new testament when Jesus begins a statement with “Truly, Truly I say to you.” This meant pay close attention. Now if a word was repeated 3 time it was of utmost importance. So when we read “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord” in Isaiah 6:3 we know that Isaiah must have felt that God was **indescribably worthy of our complete and undivided devotion.**

(Note: The use of the 3 Holiness could also have been an unintentional pointer to the trinity of God)

### *Exodus 15:11 “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?*

In the Bible we also find that some places & objects are considered Holy if it is “devoted entirely to the glory of God.” This includes things such as the Holy temple, Holy ground, Holy Sabbath, Holy Garment, Holy alter. God’s holiness indwells anything he sets aside for Himself, including man.

We find

* Jerusalem was a Holy City (Matt 4:5, Matt 27:53)
* The Tabernacle / Temple and everything in them including the Holy of Holies was considered Holy ( 1 Chron 29:3, Lev 16, Mt 24:15, Heb 9:2, 12, 25)
* The Sabbath was considered a Holy day because it was set aside for God. (Exodus 20:8)

To approach the holiness of God requires reverence and absolute obedience to His commands. If we take His holiness lightly, we see God’s Wrath and justice. We see this several time in the old testament.

When David chose to bring the ark back to Jerusalem on a cart, the oxen stumbled, and when Uzzah tried to steady the ark with his hand, God was angered and instantly struck Uzzah dead (2 Samuel 6:1–11) because God had instructed that only Levites could transport the ark. But Even the Levites were forbidden to touch the ark or even look in it because it was Holy. In 1 Samuel 6:19 The Lord slew seventy men from Beth-she'mesh, because they looked into the ark of the Lord.

We also find in Leviticus 10:1-3 that Aron’s Sons, Nadab and Abihu, didn’t follow the rules for the Holy tabernacle “so a fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord”

**Side Note:** If all scripture is Breathed out by God and God is Holy then his word should be considered Holy.” how do you treat the Holy Bible. Does it sit on a Shelf or act as a book end?

We can’t fully appreciate God’s Holiness & Grace till we understand God’s wrath and justice and we can see His Wrath and justice in Christ crucifixion as He released his whole wrath on his son when his son willingly took on the sin of the whole world.

Now we may find all these consequences to be pretty brutal for a Loving God, but God needed to show the consequences of taking his holiness Lightly so we wouldn’t take sin lightly and therefor take the crucifixion, death and resurrection of his son lightly.

Now, If we could only grasp the Love of Jesus, in that he would poor out his life for us, then we would see how ugly our sin really is and how it separates us from a Holy father who is continuously pouring out his grace on us.

### *Romans 6:9-11 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

**God Calls Us to be Holy**

We were created in the image of God and called to bear his image and reflect His holiness but we have now been separated by sin. Amazingly, considering our sinful nature, God still calls us to be holy:

### *Leviticus 19:2 “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.*

### Peter then repeats this in the new testament, so it wasn’t just for the Israelites

### *1 Peter 1:15-16 But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

So how can we, sinful people, meet Gods requirement to “Be holy”? How can we set ourselves totally apart from sin? And how can a Holy righteous God Love a sinner like me: only by pure Grace and overflowing Love.

*Romans 12:1-2: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to* ***offer your bodies as a living sacrifice****, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.****Do not conform to the pattern of this world,****but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

So, we are not called to conform to this world but to be transformed to a higher calling which is the pursuit of His kingdom. We are to conform to the image of Christ. So we become holy because Christ was holy and paid for all my unrighteousness.

### *So how do we become Holy?*

We Read in Exodus 33 & 34 that Moses face was shining after seeing God’s glory, when he came down from Mount Sinai and Aaron and all the children of Israel were afraid to come near him. So, he put a veil on his face. But we are told that Moses was denied seeing Gods face because God told him “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

### We read in *Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God*. So, we can only see God’s face when we become “ Pure in heart” or holy but sad to say no one is pure in Heart.

### 🡪So, The Problem is not with the eyes but with the Heart

### We become holy through a process of sanctification where by the Holy Spirit changes our heart and by God’s grace we are renewed in the image of Christ, and are enabled to die to our sin, and to live unto Christ righteousness. In other words, we become like Christ! When we give our hearts to Jesus the holy Spirit works in us to change us, freeing us from sinful habits and remaking us in Christ image.

### *Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

### This does not mean that sin is instantly removed from us, but it is a transformation as we continue to walk with Christ.

### You could almost compare this to meeting a new friend. Once you start spending time together you start thinking alike and having the same interest. The more time you spend together the more alike you become. If we spend more time with Christ we will start acting and thinking more like Christ.

### *Romans 6:9-11 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

### It is a continuing change worked by God through Christ in us, freeing us from sinful habits and forming in us Christlikeness.

### Bottom Line: So, to be holy I need to be like Christ (Philippians 2:5) and to be like Christ I need to allow the spirit of the lord to change me (2 Corinthians 3:18). I need to deny myself (Luke 9:23), putting away all my selfish desires, so that Christ can live lives in me (Galatians 2:20) and if Christ is in me then I will become holy in the site of God through Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

### *2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### Don’t just allow God to be at the edge of your life let him be at the very center then you will be holy and part of his kingdom.

### So, to close: I realize this lesson falls far short of explaining the Holiness of God. There are just no words to describe it. In all the documents and books, I read & studied, I couldn’t find anything that came close to adequately describe his Holiness. I think if we, as humans, could describe it then we might feel that it is within our reach.

### So, if you want to experience God’s holiness the only way is to let the holy Spirit to move in and through you and then you may just experience a glimpse of God’s holiness.

### I think the song “Lord, I Need You” says it best:

### Where sin runs deep Your grace is moreWhere grace is found is where You areWhere You are, Lord, I am freeHoliness is Christ in me

### Final Note: As far as me getting up and walking out in the middle of a prayer, A wise friend suggested I just ask God to go with me!

Resources:[song Lord I Need you](song%20Lord%20I%20Need%20you)<https://www.allaboutgod.com/holy-holy-holy.htm>