

I. Introduction. Is holiness a defining perfection of God? II Ki. 19:22 Ps. 71:22 89:35
Isa. 5:19 30:11-12,15 57:15 I Pe. 1:15 Amos 4:2 6:8 Isa. 6:1-7 Rev. 4:8 *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, Who was and Who is and Who is to come.*

II. God is holy. Isa. 6:1-4

A. What is holiness?

1. God stands alone and is separate from every other being. Dt. 33:26 I Sa. 2:2
I Ki. 8:60 Isa. 40:25 Ps. 86:10 89:8 Rev. 15:4
2. God is separate from all that is impure. Hab. 1:12-13 Ps. 5:4-6 Jo. 1:5-6 I Jo. 1:5
Are you not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One?... Your eyes are too pure to approve evil...
3. God is glorious. Isa. 6:1,3c Ps. 72:19 Ex. 15:11 *Who is like You among the gods, O LORD. Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders.*

B. That which is associated with God is holy.

1. Holy days. Ex. 20:8 12:16 16:23 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
2. Holy places. Ex. 3:5 26:33 34:34ff I Ki. 8:1ff Ps. 78:54 24:3 2:6 Mt. 4:5 Rev. 21:2
Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.
3. Holy people. Ex. 19:6 13:2 29:44 Deut. 33:2 7:6 I Pet. 2:9 I Co. 6:19 *You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*
4. Many other holy things pertaining to the Old Covenant. Ex. 29:2ff 30:25
Lev. 27:30 Num. 5:17 16:37 18:19 I Sam. 21:4
5. God's Word is holy. Ps. 105:42 19:7-9 Jer. 23:9 Ro. 7:12 *He remembered His holy word... The Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*
6. All His works are holy. Ps. 145:17
7. His wrath is holy. Ps. 5:5-6 7:11 Nahum 1:2
8. Jesus is the Holy One. Lu. 1:35 Jo. 6:69 12:40-41 *The holy child shall be called the Son of God... We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God... These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory and he spoke of Him.*

C. God is awesome in His holiness.

1. People naturally fear that which is holy.
2. Good men and women trembled in God's presence. Judg. 13:22 Ex. 3:6 33:17-23
35:30 Job 42:6 Hab. 3:16 Isa. 6:5 *We will surely die, for we have seen God... Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.. Then Moses said, "Pray You, show me Your glory!" And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you..." But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.*
3. Jesus' holiness terrified men. Mark 4:35-41 Luke 5:1-8 8:37 *Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!... Teacher do you not care that we are perishing? And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea.. And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm... They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?... All the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave, for they were gripped with great fear...*
4. Even the holy angels needed wings to cover their faces from God's glory. Isa. 6:2
5. Jesus trembled in anticipation of His exposure to God's holy wrath. Luke 22:44
Being in agony He was praying very fervently... His sweat became like drops of blood.

D. Because God is holy He is to be feared. Isa. 8:13 Rev. 15:4 *It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread... Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy.*

1. Sinners who don't respect His holiness die.

a. Nadab and Abihu. Lev. 10:1-3 *Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored." So Aaron, therefore, kept silent.*

b. Uzzah. II Sam. 6:1-7 Num. 4:15, 19-20 *When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.*

c. The Lord's Supper. I Cor. 11:27,29-30 *Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood fo the Lord...For he who eats and drinks eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many of you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.*

2. Those who misuse His holy Name are under judgment. Ex. 20:7 Lev. 24:10-23 *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain...The son of the Israelite woman blasphemed the Name and cursed. So they brought him to Moses... The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Bring the one who has cursed outside the camp, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then let all the congregation stone him.*

III. God makes us holy. Isa. 6:5-7

A. We are by nature unholy. I Jo. 1:8-10

1. Like Isaiah, we are unclean (sinful). Isa. 6:5 53:6 *All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way.*

2. Even our 'good works' are unholy. Isa. 64:6 *All our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.*

3. Because God is holy He hates and punishes all sin. Rom. 6:23 Josh. 24:19

B. Christ makes us holy once and for all by His work on the cross. Heb. 10:10,14

1. God offers a way of purification through Christ. Isa. 53:6b,10,12 *The LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him... The LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering... My Servant will justify the many as He will bear their iniquities... We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

2. There is no greater demonstration of God's holiness than the means by which He makes us holy in Christ. Ps. 22:1-3 *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I have not rest. Yet You are holy...* Mt. 27:46

3. As Isaiah was symbolically purified by the burning coal, we have been purified by Christ. Isa. 6:6-7 Jo. 1:29 Heb. 9:22

C. We who belong to God are to reflect His holiness. Lev. 19:2 20:26 I Pe. 1:15-16

You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy... Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.

1. Holiness transforms the total person. I Th. 5:23 *May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete.*
2. We have been set apart by God. Eph. 1:1,4-6 I Pet. 2:9 Rom. 8:29 Eph. 2:21-22 *He chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before Him... to the praise of the glory of His grace... You are a chosen race, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession...The whole building... is growing into a holy temple in the Lord.*
3. We are called to be different from the world. Ro. 12:2 II Cor. 6:14-18 *Do not be conformed to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*
4. We are to live pure lives. Lev. 19:1ff II Co. 7:1 Eph. 4:17ff II Pe. 3:11 *Beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God... Walk no longer just as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind...Having given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness... that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*
5. We are set apart to serve God. Isa. 6:8 II Ti. 2:21

D. How does the process of progressive sanctification (holiness) take place?

1. God's chief concern for you is not your happiness, but your holiness. Heb. 12:10 *He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.*
2. Christ is actively working to sanctify you. Eph. 5:25-27 Phil. 1:6 *Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and blameless.*
3. The pursuit of holiness requires effort. Rom. 6:19 Phil. 2:12-13 3:10 I Co. 9:24ff Heb. 12:14 I Pe. 2:11 *Pursue peace with all men and sanctification (holiness) without which no one will see the Lord... I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.*
4. What can you do to pursue holiness? (Beeke)
 - a. Know and relish Scripture.
 - b. Strive for constant faith in Christ.
 - c. Ask always: "What would Christ do?"
 - d. Associate with mentors in holiness. Pr. 13:20 I Co. 11:1
 - e. Pray for holiness. Ps. 51:10
 - f. Regard yourself as dead to sin and alive to God in Christ. Ro. 6:11
 - g. Nurture personal discipline.
 - h. Do that which glorifies God. I Co. 10:31
 - i. Don't fall prey to the 'one more-time' syndrome which puts off obedience.

E. Heaven will be perfectly holy. Rev. 21:1-8,27 Zech. 14:20-21 I Jo. 3:1-2

IV. Concluding applications.

- A. Worship our holy God! I Chr. 16:23ff Ps. 97:12 99:5 50:21 89:7 2:11 Heb. 12:28 *Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones, and give thanks to His holy name... Exalt the LORD our God and worship at His footstool; Holy is He.*
- B. Make it your life's goal to pursue holiness. I Pe. 1:16 Lev. 19:14 I Co. 6:19-20 I Th. 4:6
- C. Tell the lost world what God is really like. I Pe. 2:9 *You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

Attributes of God: He is Holy - Quiz (T/F - please explain your answers)

- 1. Holiness is the only attribute of God which is repeated in succession three times.**
- 2. Love is God's most important attribute.**
- 3. There is no attribute of God which more fully reflects His nature than His holiness.**
- 4. The essential meaning of holiness is moral purity.**
- 5. The essential meaning of holiness is separation or to be set apart.**
- 6. The holiness of God rightly makes men tremble in terror.**
- 7. When that which is unholy comes into the presence of God will be destroyed.**
- 8. Our holiness is derived from God.**
- 9. Our acquisition of holiness is entirely passive.**
- 10. Our worship should reflect God's holiness.**