

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
THE DOCTRINE OF GOD'S GOODNESS — PART ONE

Session 7 — January 18, 2023

OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SESSION

- 1) To be able to recall & describe the meaning of God's holiness, righteousness, justice, and wrath.
- 2) To understand how these four qualities relate to moral purity.
- 3) To understand the relationship between the moral qualities of God and the harmony that exists among them (Sessions 7-9).
- 4) To cultivate understanding that will lead to increased trust, love, and commitment toward a pure, true, and loving God.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite." Isaiah 57:15, ESV

— or —

"And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine." Leviticus 20:26, NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

"If the qualities of greatness [we described in the preceding sessions] were God's only attributes, He might conceivably be an immoral or amoral being, exercising His power and knowledge in a capricious or even cruel fashion. But [who] we are dealing with is a good God, one who can be trusted and loved. He has attributes of goodness as well as greatness. [In the following three sessions] we will consider His moral qualities, that is, the characteristics of God as a moral being. For convenient study, we will classify His basic moral attributes as purity, integrity, and love" (Millard Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*, pg 99).

1. What is said to be "holy" in the following verses:

Mt. 4:5 –

Lk. 1:70 –

Jn. 17:11 –

Lk. 1:35 –

Mk. 12:36 –

Mk. 8:38 –

Heb. 9:1 –

Heb. 9:3 –

2. Based on your discovery of what is called holy in the Bible, how would you define the word "holy" with your own words?

3. Go to Blueletterbible.org, and look up Hebrews 7:26 and copy out the definition of the word *holy*, which is g3741 for Strong's Concordance...

4. How does the typical understanding of holy/holiness as being sinlessness or pure, fit in with what you have seen in the Bible verses above and Strong's definition?

5. Look up the word "righteous & righteousness on blueletterbible.org. How does the OT express the concept of the "*righteousness*" of God? Is it different from a NT perspective?

6. Look up the word "justice" on blueletterbible.org. How does the OT express the concept of the "*justice*" of God? Is it different from a NT perspective?

7. What do these two types of justice mean?
 - Retributive:

 - Distributive:

8. Does what you discovered about the two words "justice" and righteousness" of God provide you with insight to the discussion of Social Justice as it is misused today? How?