

December 10, 2023

The Attributes of God, Part 6

6. God is Holy

Let's begin our study of God's Holiness with this Scripture:

Heb 12:14 ...without [being holy] no one will see the Lord.

This morning we will be speaking about the essential attribute of God's Holiness.

In **Lev. 11:44**, the Lord Himself tells Israel ...*I AM Holy*...

By saying *I AM Holy*, the Lord is affirming that His Being, His very essence as God is Holy.

By saying *I AM Holy*, the Lord is affirming His absolute uniqueness.

- He is completely other than anything of His creation

He is affirming His Personal moral excellence and purity

- He is without any fault, failure, error, weakness, corruption or sin of any kind

- He Himself is the Source and the Standard of all moral perfection and purity

And because God is holy, all of His attributes are holy.

What does God's holiness have to do with us?

In Lev.11:44 we read this command of the Lord to His people:

...I AM the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.

This command is restated in **1 Peter 1:15-16**

...just as [God] Who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I AM holy."

This is the same truth we read in **Eph.1:4**

...[God the Father] chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him...

This means that we are to be ...be [as] holy as God Himself

- we are to be as morally perfect and pure as God

This should cause us to ask the same question Nicodemus Jesus asked in **John 3:9** - *How can this be?*

In **Matt 19:25** when the disciples realized something of this truth, they asked Jesus: *Who then can be saved...?*

Jesus answered *...With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible...*

Only a person who is already holy can be or can live holy

The question is:

How can an unholy people be holy?

The answer is found in David's cry for mercy in **Ps 51:7-10** -

Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. 9 Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean [holy] heart, O God...

The only way a holy God can *...Create in [David] a clean [holy] heart...* is stated in **2 Chron 12:6**

The Lord is Righteous...

Only because God is Righteous does David have any hope of eternal forgiveness and eternal Life.

Now let's turn our attention to the meaning of Righteous.

7. God is Righteous

Here are a few Scriptures about the Righteousness of God:

Dan 9:14 *...the Lord our God is Righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done...*

2 Sam 23:3 *...[the Lord] rules over men Righteously...*

Ps 145:17 *...the Lord is Righteous in all His ways...*

What is the Righteous of God?

One writer gives this definition:

The Righteous of God is the Divine attribute that describes God as always acting in a way that is consistent with his own [holy] character

This means that God's Righteousness is both an attribute and an activity. And because God is Righteous by Nature, all that He does or does not do is Righteous.

Ps 145:17 ...*the Lord is Righteous in all His ways...*

To say that God is Righteous is to affirm His Personal intrinsic Rightness.

What does it mean that God is Right in Himself?

it means that that all of His deeds are in keeping with His Personal perfection, with His holiness

it means that all of God's deeds are morally pure, without fault, because His is morally pure and without fault

it means that God Himself is the Definition and Source of what is Right

Next week we will begin to answer the question: How can an unholy people be holy?