

December 17, 2023

The Doctrine of God, Week 9

Last week we began to speak about the Holiness God.

- He is completely other than anything of His creation
- He is without any fault, failure, error, weakness, corruption or sin of any kind
- He Himself is morally perfect pure, the Source and the Standard of all moral perfection and purity

In **Eph. 1:4** we read that this HOLY God has chosen a people who were unHOLY to be His HOLY people:
...[God] chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we would be HOLY and blameless...

And in **1 Peter 1:15-16** we are commanded to *...be HOLY in all [our] behavior...*

This means that we are to be AS morally pure and morally perfect as God Himself. And if we are not as HOLY, we read in **Heb 12:14** -

...without [being HOLY] no one will see the Lord.

Then in **Ez. 18:20** we read the result of not being HOLY -

...the soul that sins shall die...

(Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23)

So here is the problem:

How can a holy God make an unholy people holy?

This brings us to the next attribute of God to be considered:

7. God is Righteous

Righteousness has to do with the deeds of God.

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

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

God's Righteousness means that all of His deeds are morally Right. To be morally Right means that God's deeds are in perfect agreement with His Personal holiness.

- All that God does or does not do is morally pure, without fault
- God Himself is the Definition and Source of what is Right
- God cannot act in a way that denies His holiness and remain holy

It is at this point that we must rephrase our original question:

How could a holy God choose us who were not holy to be His holy people and remain Righteous?

Listen to how John Piper answers our question:

The wisdom of God devised a way for the love of God to deliver sinners from the wrath of God while not compromising the Righteousness of God.

God has resolved this seemingly insolvable problem because He is Righteousness.

Let's remember that God's Righteousness always results in what is morally Right.

The result of doing what is morally Right is called justice, which is the next attribute of God to be understood.

The word just is a legal term that has to do with what is legally Right, that which is in keeping with the Law of God.

This means that God's Righteousness is His means of achieving His just [moral] solution.

Now let's ask our question this time with the justice of God in mind:

How can God justly pour out His Spirit [Rom. 5:5] upon an unholy people?

The answer is found in **Rom 1:16-17** -

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in IT [the gospel] the Righteousness of God is revealed...