



God Most High

Life Group Study Notes

#4. The Holiness of God

Opening Up

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” Isaiah 6:3 (NIV)

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

Share with the group an experience when you specially felt you were in the presence and holiness of God.

Drilling Down

1. Read each of the following quotes. What strikes you in each one and why?

“Creatures are not inherently holy, nor can they sanctify themselves. All sanctification and all holiness proceeds from God. Because YHWH is holy, he wants for himself a holy people, a holy priesthood, a holy dwelling... The holiness by which YHWH put himself in a special relation to Israel and which totally claims Israel for the service of YHWH is finally supremely manifest in that in Christ God gives himself to the church, which he redeems and cleanses from all its iniquities.” – Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*

“The sudden realization of his personal depravity came like a stroke from heaven upon the trembling heart of Isaiah at the moment when he had his revolutionary vision of the holiness of God. His pain-filled cry, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts, expresses the feeling of every man who has discovered himself under his disguises and has been confronted with an inward sight of the holy whiteness that is God. Such an experience cannot but be emotionally violent.” -- A. W. Tozer. *The Knowledge of the Holy* (p. 135).

“God’s holiness is manifested at the cross. Wondrously, and yet most solemnly does the atonement display God’s infinite holiness and abhorrence of sin. How hateful must sin be to God for Him to punish it to its utmost desserts when it was imputed to His Son!” -- A. W. Pink. *The Attributes of God*

2. God’s holiness is inalienable. His name is the Holy One. Holiness is not something that God decides to be or do, for it is essential to his nature. God is holy. He would have to cease being God if he were to become unholy. He would have to deny his own nature to do something that is unholy. This is a tremendous truth that inspires extraordinary confidence in God. Examine the following Scriptures and comment on what they teach about God’s holiness.

- Exodus 3:1-5
- Exodus 15:11
- Isaiah 6:1-7
- Isaiah 57:15
- 1 Peter 1:15-16
- Hebrews 12:14
- 2 Corinthians 5:21

3. What is the essential meaning of God’s holiness? How is it that God can be so holy and yet enter into relationship with sinners like us?

Looking In

How does an understanding of the holiness of God affect our attitude toward sin? Our worship? Our Christian life? Our purpose in the world?

How does the Christian pursuit of holiness relate to the holiness that God gives through Christ?

Moving Out

What needs to change in your life beginning now as you reflect upon the holiness of God?

