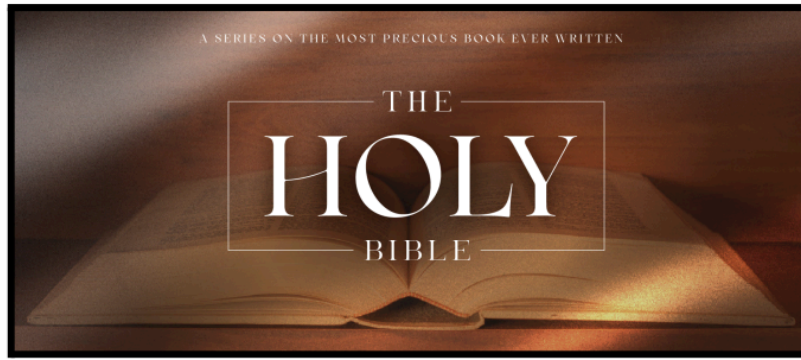




## THE HOLY BIBLE

### WEEK 4 - The Holiness of God

#### 1. WHAT DOES HOLINESS MEAN?

The primary Old Testament word for holiness carries the idea of **being cut off or separated**.

Holiness involves both:

- **Separation FROM** what is unclean, sinful, and evil.
- **Consecration TO** what is pure and devoted to God.

The sermon describes God's holiness as His complete separation from evil and His moral perfection.

#### DISCUSS

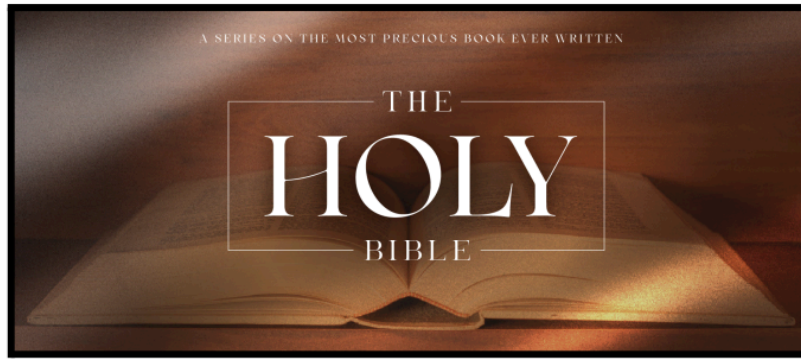
1. Why do you think it is important that we understand God's holiness before we talk about our own holiness?
  2. What is the difference between simply “being a good person” and pursuing holiness?
  3. What are some things our culture has normalized that Scripture calls us to separate ourselves from?
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#### 2. GOD'S DESIRE IS TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE

From the Garden of Eden forward, we see God's desire to live in communion with humanity.

Sin disrupted that relationship.

Throughout Scripture, God continues to establish covenants and make a way to dwell among His people—from Noah and Abraham to Israel, the tabernacle, and ultimately Jesus.



The tabernacle was holy because it was **set apart for God's presence**. The Most Holy Place represented the place where God's presence dwelled in a uniquely sacred way.

## DISCUSS

4. What does this progression through Scripture tell us about God's desire for relationship with humanity?
  5. How does seeing holiness as connected to God's presence change the way you think about holiness?
  6. Have you ever thought of obedience as a way of making room for deeper relationship with God rather than simply following rules? Why or why not?
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## 3. "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY"

Read:

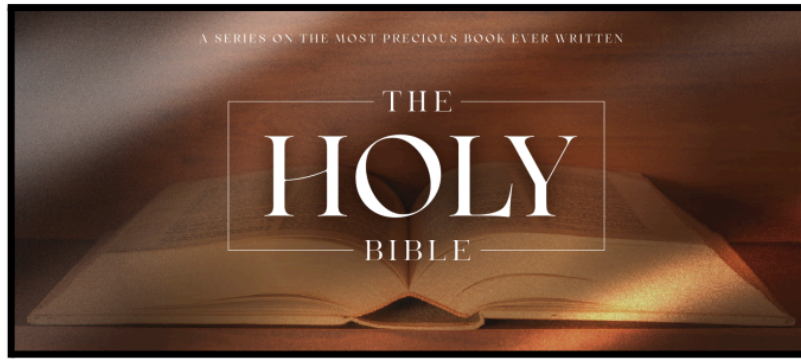
### Leviticus 19:2

"God didn't simply tell Israel that He was holy. He called **His people to be holy because He is holy**.

Israel was called to be distinct from the surrounding nations and to live differently because they belonged to God.

## DISCUSS

7. Why do you think God connects His holiness with the way His people live?
8. What does it look like for a Christian to be "set apart" without becoming isolated from the world?
9. Where do you find it easiest to live differently because you belong to Christ? Where is it hardest?



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## 4. THE OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICE

The Old Testament system emphasized the seriousness of approaching a holy God.

The people needed priests, purification, sacrifices, and preparation because God's holiness could not simply be treated casually.

The offerings addressed different aspects of worship, fellowship, sin, guilt, surrender, and atonement.

### DISCUSS

**10. What does the Old Testament sacrificial system teach us about how seriously God takes sin?**

**11. Why do you think it is easy for modern Christians to minimize sin?**

**12. What happens to our understanding of grace when we lose sight of God's holiness?**

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## 5. JESUS CHANGED THE WAY WE APPROACH GOD

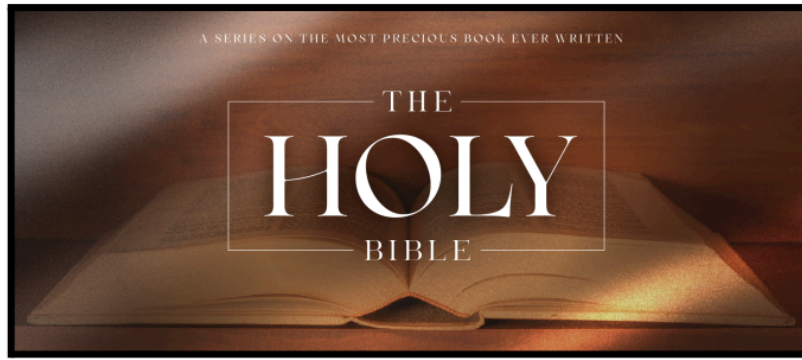
The sermon makes an important distinction:

**Jesus freed us from the ceremonial requirements of the Old Covenant, but He did not make holiness irrelevant.**

Jesus became the final sacrifice and our High Priest. His blood provides the cleansing and access to God that the old sacrificial system could never ultimately accomplish.

Read:

**Hebrews 9–10**



**John 14:15**

## **DISCUSS**

**13. What is the difference between obeying God to earn His acceptance and obeying God because we have already received His grace?**

**14. How can Christians accidentally use grace as an excuse for disobedience?**

**15. Why should Jesus' sacrifice make us MORE grateful for holiness rather than less concerned about it?**

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## **6. HOLINESS IS STILL THE CALL**

Read:

**1 Peter 1:15–16**

“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Read:

**Romans 12:1**

## **DISCUSS**

**16. What does it mean for your everyday life to become a “living sacrifice”?**

**18. If someone watched your life for one week, what would show them that you belong to Jesus**