

Foundations I – 09/29/24

The Attributes of God

Character qualities that uniquely define God

- Each of God's attributes represent the entirety of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit).
- The differences lay in their roles, functions, and actions (1 John 5:12; 1 Cor. 12:3; Gen. 1:2).
- What you know and believe about God inevitably becomes the lens through which you see everything else in life.
- If we are to truly serve, worship, and honor God, we must have an accurate understanding of His nature.

The Holiness of God

Who will not fear, o Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

Revelation 15:4

• What it Means

- *קדוש Qadosh* – marked off, to separate, sacredness (Exodus 3:5)
- *Hagios* – pure, sacred, perfect, worthy, divine (Ps. 99:9; Isa. 6:1-3; Mark. 1:24; 1 John 3:3)
 - God is untouched and unstained by the evil in the world.
- The holiness of God may be defined by His incorruptible nature (1 John 1:5)
- God is holy; that is, He possesses moral excellence which sets Him apart from all others (Numbers 23:19; Hab. 1:13; 1 John 1:5)
- Only a holy God is worthy to be praised (Ps. 30:4; 99:9)
- Only a holy God can make sinners holy (1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 1:21-22)

• How it is Manifest

1. At Creation

- God pronounced all that He made to be “very good” (Gen. 1:31)
- In the beginning, Creation was good in itself and in its relation to the Creator's purpose (Ecc. 7:29)

2. In the Law

- The Law reveals to mankind that God does not tolerate sin (Prov. 3:32; 15:26)
- Sin must be punished because God is Holy (Nahum 1:2; Heb. 9:22)

3. At the Cross

- Because God is holy, He cannot be deformed by sin (Ps. 89:35)
- Because God is holy, acceptance with Him on the ground of works is utterly impossible (Titus 3:5)

Atonement: כָּפַר, *kaphar* – To make amends; to pacify; to cover

- The means of reconciliation between God and people
- Its achievement is dependent on an act of God Himself and requires the shedding of innocent blood (Isaiah 6:1-7; Heb. 9:22)

• **God's Absolute Holiness**

- God is infinitely holy—He does not need assistance on being holy
- Holiness, in its highest degree, is God's sole prerogative (1 Sam. 2:2)
- Holiness is a quality separable from man, but it is inseparable from God

• **Man's Pursuit of Holiness**

- Because God is holy, holiness is also expected of those who are set apart unto Him (Heb. 12:14; 1 Thess. 5:23)
- The holiness of God is the standard that every believer must pursue (Lev. 11:44)
- God calls His people to live in a distinctly different way (Lev. 1:45; 1 Peter 1:14-16)
- When one measures one's holiness against God, the need for a complete change of moral and spiritual condition becomes apparent.

• **Question**

1. As God alone is the source and fount of holiness, how can we earnestly seek and reflect His holiness?

Recommended Books:

1. J. I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2008.
2. R. C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Publishers, 1985.
3. J. C. Ryle, *Holiness*. Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 1877.
4. A. W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. 1975.
5. A. W. Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*. Blacksburg, VA: Wilder Publications. 2008.
6. A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*. New York, NY: Harper One. 1961.