

Holy means to cut or to separate—God is totally separated from evil. God is 100% holy and pure; God is light, and there is no darkness in Him, **1 John 1:5**. For God to ignore or overlook sin would be for Him to deny His character, which will not and cannot happen. **Ex15:11; Psalm 22:1-3; Psalm 103:1; Zech 9:9; Isa 6:3**.

Holiness, God’s absolute perfection, is the foundation for the rest of God’s attributes, and is largely ignored outside the church and inside the church. We live in a culture dominated by the concepts of secularism, naturalism, Spiritism, love, tolerance, fairness, personal choice, personal opinions, and moral and ethical relativism. Holiness, godliness, sovereignty, absolute standards, justice, righteousness, purity, right, wrong, good and evil are often compared to imperfect human standards rather than God, who is perfect and totally separated from evil. **This helps explain why the holiness of God is mentioned in Scripture more often than any attribute of God.** Does that surprise you? From the talk outside the church and inside the church I would guess that love is the most important attribute of God and the foundation for everything He does. Not true. If displaying love were the foundation of the attributes of God, Jesus would never have been crucified for the penalty of sin. He did not deserve to die, and punishing a person for something they did not do is not loving. Why should He have had to pay the penalty for sins He did not commit? Love and fairness would have ignored the cross. God’s justice demanded it.

Compromised Christians have made an art form out of deconstructing the bible and blending into the culture rather than shining out as lights. Maybe this is at least in part why we are largely ignored by so many people. They see little difference between us and them. Too often professing Christians attack bible believing Christians as legalists, irrelevant, goodie two-shoes, holier than thou, a hindrance to evangelism, too negative, naïve, irrelevant, wasting their opportunity to be what they want, to do what they want because personal choice is a right, and being true to yourself, your feelings and your personal opinions are more important than obedience to God. The rational is often, since God is love, and wants us to be happy, He will understand and forgive because He is all about love and sincere transparency.

The fact is that the love of God is used today to excuse sin and redefine obedience to God’s commands and will. Can’t you let it go?; it’s Friday night, not Sunday morning, have some fun, besides God is loving and forgiving; it’s only oral sex, not vaginal sex, so you are still technically a virgin; it only a little white lie, not a real lie, can’t you learn how to blend in so you can be seen as relevant rather than a religious extremist?; don’t tell me what the bible says, tell me what your heart is telling you; sure you are lit up, but it’s not like you are totally blasted, it’s only weed, it’s not like you are shooting heroin; you are only going 75, it’s not like you went over 100 or something crazy; you should not have hit her, but she hit you first; you don’t have to forgive him because he has not said he is sorry first; compared to most people I am a saint; if I do things God’s way I will never get a pay raise or job promotion, much less a date or married; showing partiality is just normal if you expect to get ahead; if you don’t tell the people what they want to hear you will never get elected; if you don’t lie in business you cannot compete with the rest of the liars; everyone does it, at least you are not being a hypocrite, so that has to score some points with God if he is fair; marriage is just about two people who love each other, that is all that really matters, so why should I care about their sexual orientation or preferences?; who needs a piece of paper, we love each other?

Where does God ever tell Christians it is His will for them to rationalize or relativize His will, His inspired Word, or His commands because His greatest attribute is love and his greatest desire for us is to make us healthy, wealthy, prosperous, and happy? **1 Pet.1:16.**

What does all of this have to do with God being just, the topic of the morning? It is absolutely essential. Why? Because holiness is ultimately foundational to justice. Why? **Because God's holiness is the standard for understanding what is just, loving, fair and good.** Apart from God's standard of perfect holiness, justice, love, righteousness, truth, and goodness all becomes the subjective opinions of flawed, sinful men and women. You cannot draw straight lines using a crooked yardstick.

### **God is just!**

Just is used of a standard, rule, custom, being right, right conduct, doing what is right. God's attribute of being Just "designates the perfect agreement between His nature and His acts, (in which He is the standard for all men)." Vine, pg. 283.

Because God is holy, His actions by definition are always just.

The words just and righteous are often used interchangeably or linked and paired together in the Old and New Testaments, **Psalm 89:14; Psalm 98: 9; Psalm 99:4; Zeph 3:4-5; Zach 9:9; Acts 17:31; Rom 1:18; Rom 5:17-19.**

Remember, Jesus was born to die, the perfect lamb of God, to pay the penalty for sin. **John 1:29; Matt. 20:18-19; 26:53-56; John 9:39; Acts 2:22-24; Rom. 5:8-11; 1Pet 2:24; 1 Pet 1:3-9**

Jesus' sacrifice did not just cover over sin, it took it away forever. **Hebrews 10: 1-18**

Four teaching points in relation to a Christian's salvation and sanctification as it relates to justice:

- 1 Jesus' payment for sin guarantees the eternal salvation of all who place their faith in Him, **Rom 3:21-31**
- 2 Jesus' payment for sin guarantees the ultimate sanctification of all who have placed their faith in Him for salvation, **1 Pet 1:3-9.**
- 3 Attempting to add to God's perfect sacrifice for the penalty of sin for salvation is a fruitless waste of time, and sinful, whether done sincerely or insincerely. Why insult God? **Rom. 8:1; 2 Cor 5:21**
- 4 Attempting to add to God's perfect sacrifice for the penalty of sin for sanctification is a fruitless waste of time, and sinful, whether done sincerely or insincerely. Why insult God? **1 John 1:7-2:2**

Christians who think they either can or need to add to or improve on the perfect work Jesus Christ accomplished through His death, burial and resurrection for our salvation and sanctification are either naïve, arrogant or biblically uninformed. God is holy, God is just, and it is impossible to improve on His perfection or perfect work. **1 Cor 1:30-31**