



Notes

Leviticus 11:44 - For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.

Ps 29:2 - Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

Worship as Holiness

Holy is the Lord: What does that mean?

- The first thing that usually comes to mind when we think about God's holiness is his transcendence.
 - 1 Kings 8:27: "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!"
 - Psalm 47:1-2: "Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth."
 - Psalm 11:4: "The LORD (Jahweh) is in his holy temple; the LORD's (Jahweh's) throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man."
 - Isaiah 6
- His otherness.
 - The transcendence of God means that He alone is God and he reigns and rules above and beyond all that we can fully imagine and think.
 - Exodus 15:11: "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"
 - Isaiah 45:5-7: "I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things."

"Probably the most common explanation of the term "holiness" is that to be 'holy' means 'to be separate from', 'to be cut off from', 'to be placed at a distance from.'... there is a good measure of truth in this. But in my own view it starts from the wrong place. It describes the Creator's attribute of holiness from the viewpoint of the creature; it describes his purity from the standpoint of the sinner. And ultimately that is to do our thinking the wrong way around. It may give us a partial perspective but not the entire picture."¹

¹ Sinclair Ferguson, *Devoted To God*: page 1



“For anything to be true of God as he is in himself it must be true quite apart from his work of creation, quite apart from our existence or even the existence of angels, archangels, cherubim and seraphim. It must be true of God simply as he always existed as the eternal trinity.”²

“the perfectly pure devotion of each of these three persons [of the Trinity]... corresponds to the ancient words that describe marriage: ‘forsaking all other, and cleaving only unto thee’—absolute, permanent, exclusive, pure, irreversible, and fully expressed *devotion*.”³

- God’s holiness also means the total devotion of each member of the trinity to the other two.
 - We must first understand God’s own devotion to himself, if we are to understand how we are also to be holy as He is holy.

What does it mean for us to be holy?

Misconceptions

- Holiness is mere abstinence from sin
- Holiness is fully achieved at conversion.

Devoted to God

- As Sinclair Ferguson alluded to before: it is being wholly devoted to God’s glory.
 - Matthew 22:37: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”
 - Your mind, your will, and your affections.
 - The whole trinity is on your side in your sanctification.
 - 1 Peter 1:1-2: “To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood.”
1. God the Father elected us.
 - a. Ephesians 1:4: “he chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”
 2. God the Son redeemed us.
 - a. Titus 2:11-15: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly

² Ibid page 1-2

³ Ibid page 2



lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."

3. God the Spirit seals and sanctifies us.
 - a. Ephesians 1:13-14: "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, *were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit*, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."
- The Father chooses us to be holy in His sight, the Son accomplishes that work of salvation, and the Spirit seals and sanctifies for the final day of redemption to come when Jesus returns.
 - If our sanctification is God's top priority throughout the trinity, why isn't it our top priority?
- The end goal of holiness: seeing the Lord.
 - Hebrews 12:14: "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."
 - Exodus 33.
 - God had his goodness pass before Moses, but Moses also had to be hidden within the cleft of a rock.
 - John 1
 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.
- Moses wanted to see God's glory, and God declared his goodness. Jesus Christ *is* the manifestation of the goodness and glory of God that Moses saw, and Jesus is also the cleft in the rock that we hide in.
- We are called by the Father, justified by the work of the Son, and sealed and sanctified by the Holy Spirit so that we will *see the Lord!* That's why we strive for holiness!
 - 1 Peter 1:6-9: In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.