

# ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: KEY TERMS OF SCRIPTURE

## HOLINESS

1.) The concept of holiness (and its synonym “sanctify” and all their derivatives) brings together two spiritual components. Based on the following verses, what are they, and what would be a good working definition of holiness?

**Exodus 19:4-6** *“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”*

**Leviticus 21:6-8** *“[The priests] must be holy to their God and must not profane the name of their God. Because they present the offerings made to the LORD by fire, the food of their God, they are to be holy. They must not marry women defiled by prostitution or divorced from their husbands, because priests are holy to their God. Regard them as holy, because they offer up the food of your God. Consider them holy, because I the LORD am holy—I who make you holy.”*

**Ephesians 5:25-27** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

### HOLINESS:

2.) How is the LORD God most holy of all?

**Isaiah 6:3-5** *[The seraphs] were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”*

**Isaiah 46:9** *“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.”*

3.) A fundamental principle of interpreting Scripture is noting the context—how different nuances of a word are used in different situations. When it comes to us as God’s children, holiness is spoken of in two distinct, yet interrelated, ways. Let’s use the following passages to discover what they are:

**Hebrews 10:10** *We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

**Ephesians 1:4** *[God] chose us in [Christ] before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

**Hebrews 2:11** *Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.*

**1 Peter 2:9** *You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

a.) What has the holy God done for us?

b.) From where does this holiness originate? How does this give us certainty and confidence?

c.) What have we become by virtue of the holiness we have through faith in Christ?

**Leviticus 19:2** *“Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.”*

**Hebrews 12:14** *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

**2 Timothy 1:9-10** *[God] has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus.*

d.) Having been made altogether holy (spotless) freely through faith in Christ, what does God want and expect of his children? Why?

e.) While these two nuances of holiness are interrelated, which of the two comes first? Why would it be disastrous to put more emphasis on the latter (our sanctified living), rather than the former (the holiness God gives us in Christ)?

f.) Holiness does not earn us eternal life, but those headed to eternal life will be holy in how they live. Explain.

4.) What added comfort do we have as we strive to live out godly lives?

**1 Corinthians 6:19** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

**Philippians 2:12-13** Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Closing Prayer: *Holy God, we thank you for declaring us holy for the sake of Jesus, our Savior. Holy Spirit, cause us to display that holiness more and more in the godly way we live our lives. Amen.*

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