

Adoring the God of Glory

December 3rd, Class 11 – Adult Equipping Center
God's Holiness – Teaching Notes

Recap

- God's goodness and love – goodness being an umbrella term which includes love
- God's self-giving / definition of love depends on the nature of the relationship – different forms of God's love

The Holiness of God

Title for God: Holy One (Is. 43:14-15, 49:7, 54:5; Mk. 1:24, Lk. 4:34, Acts 3:13-15)

- We use this word a lot, we hear it a lot – but what does it mean?

Definition: Two-fold

- ***To be other, separate, different, distinguish***
 - Sproul Examples: holiday = holy day; day that is set apart for a special purpose
 - Sabbath idea
 - Q: What other some other examples in Scripture of things that are “made holy” or set apart?
- Q: What might this mean in the context of God's character and nature?
 - Transcendent, unlike anyone else, set apart glorious
 - Ex. 15:11 - “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? (ESV)
 - 1 Chron 16:28-30
 - [28] Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
 - [29] Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!
 - Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
 - [30] tremble before him, all the earth;
 - Isaiah 6:1-4
 - [1] In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. [2] Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. [3] And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” [4] And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. (ESV)

- God’s Law reinforces the importance of God’s “otherness” – taking his name in vain
- The Lord’s Prayer – hallowed by your name
- “We cannot grasp the true meaning of the divine holiness by thinking of someone or something very pure and then raising the concept to the highest degree we are capable of. God’s holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely bettered. We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The nature man is blind to it. He may fear God’s power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine.” (p. 104, Knowledge of the Holy)
- We are drawn to this sense of “other”, of “holiness” – fear it and are repelled by it; mysterious, intriguing, desire it as well
- Q: How do you see society’s hunger for the holy or the sense of God’s nearness? Desire God’s nearness or God’s touch

Moral Quality

- **To be righteous, pure**
- Grudem: “*separated* from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.” (201)
- Charnock: God possesses a “perfect and unpolluted freedom from all evil.” (2:194)

Other Scripture: Hab. 1:12-13, 1 Jn. 1:5, Jms. 1:13

- Habakkuk 1:12–13
 [12] Are you not from everlasting,
 O LORD my God, my Holy One?
 We shall not die.
 O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment,
 and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.
 [13] You who are of purer eyes than to see evil
 and cannot look at wrong,
 why do you idly look at traitors
 and remain silent when the wicked swallows up
 the man more righteous than he? (ESV)
- 1 John 1:5 - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
- Jms. 1:13 - Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. (ESV)

Images:

- Light (drives away darkness, shines light)
- Cleansed, washed (garments on priests, people of Exodus)

Genesis

- Israel – chosen, set apart

Exodus

- Burning bush scene – standing on holy ground, in the presence of the “other”
- God’s chosen people going to the wilderness to worship / sacrifice and go to promised land – question: who owns Israel?
- Israelites: 1) delivered from Egypt, 2) delivered to the promised land
- Ex. 19:4-6 / 1 Ptr. 2:9-10
- Tabernacle: holy place, most holy place

Leviticus

- 11:44-45, 20:26 / 1 Ptr. 1:14-16 and 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1

Gospels

- Jesus is the Holy One (Lk. 1:35, 1:49, 1:71-75, 4:34, 5:8)
- Jn. 17:15-19

Epistles

- Eph. 2:20-21, 4:22-24, 5:25-27
 - Christ gives us “complete holiness, and does not just impute it but also inwardly imparts it by the regenerating and renewing work of the Holy Spirit until we have been fully conformed to the image of his Son.” (169, Jones quoting Bavinck, Reformed Dogmatics vol. 4, 248 – Holy Spirit, Church and New Creation).
- Heb. 12:10-14
 - “Justification answers to God’s righteousness; sanctification answers to his holiness. ‘Hence, the two are equally necessary and are proclaimed in Scripture with equal emphasis...Justification and sanctification...grant the same benefits’ namely, ‘the entire Christ.’” (Jones ->Bavinck, 4:249)

The End

- Zech. 14:10-12 - And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, “Holy to the LORD.” And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. [21] And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them.
- Rev. 4:8, 15:4, 21:2
 - 4:8 - And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” (ESV)
 - 15:4 - [4] 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.” (ESV)

- 21:2 - Revelation [- [2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [4] He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (ESV)

Q: When we say that God is holy, what do we mean?

- Altogether different and uniquely glorious
- Pure and untainted by anything evil or sinful

Implications

1. Class...
2. Expect to be viewed as different when living for a “different”, holy God.
3. Those in Christ have been set apart
 - a. Set apart by God’s choice
 - b. Set apart by God’s sacrificial love
 - c. Set apart from sin (mortification/sanctification)
 - d. Set apart to Christlikeness (conformation)- resemblance to Christ
4. God’s holy glory is unique and incomprehensible in full, therefore, worship Him!

Praising God’s Holiness in Psalm 99

- Verses 1-3
- Verses 4-5
- Verses 6-7
- Verses 8-9

Sing: Holy, Holy, Holy

Questions for Reflection:

1. Consider the reactions of angels and redeemed saints to the holiness of God in Is. 6:1-4 and Rev 4:8. What is your reaction to their reaction?
2. Holiness is separation from sin and a dedication to God's honor and purpose. Which aspect of His holiness do you need to consider most right now in your life?
3. What aspects of your life are "set apart" for God's good purposes? Which aspects of your life are still functionally under your sole control and direction?
4. How does Jesus provide you assurance now to come into the presence of the Holy One?
5. How does the gospel generate passion for holiness in God's people? How does it particularly move you in the season of life you're in now?