

Discussion Outline & Questions for Sunday, April 19

Teaching Series... Seeing God (*The attributes of God*)

Part 1 The Character of God: Holy

The Scriptures:

- Many see holiness as the foremost attribute of all because holiness pervades all the other attributes of God and is consistent with all He is and does. The scriptures are full of passages describing and showcasing God's holiness, in fact the entire redemption process and need of salvation and death of Christ is about God's holiness.. here are only two passages to consider

*For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
"I dwell in the high and holy place"*

Isaiah 57:15

"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?

Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

Exodus 15:11

The Definition:

- The basic meaning of holiness is "set apart" or "separation" (Heb. qedosh; Gk. hagiozo).
- God's holiness means that he is set apart from his creation, separated from and set against all evil, and he is devoted above all to uphold his own name.

The Definition Breakdown:

1) God is set apart and high above all of His creation

*For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
"I dwell in the high and holy place"*

Isaiah 57:15

2) God is separated from and wrathfully set against all evil

Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One?

..Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, and You cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

Habakkuk 1:12-13

The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world & all who dwell in it.

Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire,

Nahum 1:5-6

3) God is devoted above all to uphold His own name

For my name's sake I defer my anger,

for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. . . .

For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned?

My glory I will not give to another.

Isaiah 48:9, 11

Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name,

which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

Ezekiel 36:22

Discussion: (See next page)

Discussion:

- Imagine taking a trip to the sun. What would it be like? What would happen to you? The brightness and heat of the sun will not let you get near it.
Discuss how approaching the sun is in some ways like a sinner in the presence of a holy God.
- Have you ever heard how to cook a frog? Don't try to put him into boiling water or he will jump out. You must put him in the water & slowly turn up the heat until its boiling and the frog will not jump out because he gets use to the tempature, yet the heat eventually kills him. Sin is like the water. But no matter how comfortable sin may become in a culture, the heat of God's holiness is coming.
Discuss how tv, internet, and songs of our culture constantly downplay sin and make us laugh at it.
- *Talk about how this downplaying of sin in our entertainment effects our culture's view of God's holiness and judgement?*
- Take a minute and think about how this same holy God took on flesh and came to take the heat of Gods wrath upon himself and die in our place to absorb our punishment for sin.
How does knowing about God's holiness help you better understand what Jesus has done for you?

Part 2 The Character of God: Jealous

The Scripture:

10 And he said, "Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.

11 "Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 12 Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. 13 You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

Exodus 34:10-14

The Definition:

- God's jealousy is his righteous and loving demand of exclusive faithfulness from his covenant people.

Discussion:

- *What are some of the things that God has done in history and/or your life that amaze you?*
 - *How has God shown a commitment to His children?*
 - *What actions or attitudes might you see in a person that would show that they are committed to something?*
 - *If someone were to observe your actions and attitudes, what might they say you are most committed to?*
-

Application: How does seeing God as Jealous affect us?

- Be thankful to God that he seeks covenant relationship with us.
- Be jealous for his glory in our thoughts, attitudes, actions, schedules
- Be loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.
- Be faithful to the Lord and our covenant relationship with him.
- Be seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Application: How does seeing God in holiness affect us?

- Seeing God's holiness **produces a healthy fear and reverence of God leading us to wisdom**

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy.

Revelation 15:4

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

- Seeing God's holiness **produces a desire to worship God in the fullness of our being**

Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Psalms 96:9

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 12:28-29

- Seeing God's holiness **highlights our sins, rips away our arrogance, and produces true humility**

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.

⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Isaiah 6:1-6

'The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name!

Holy is he!... worship at his footstool! Holy is he!'

Psalms 99:1-3, 5b

- Seeing God's holiness **produces a desire for purity within us...**

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

Ephesians 1:4

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

1 John 3:6-8

- Seeing God's holiness **points us to Christ, the holy one who died to cleanse us before our holy God...**

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. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But

if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-6