God Is Holy

Intro: More passages speak to the holiness of God than any other part of His character. Thus it is important we study this trait of God.

I. Emphasized in Both Testaments.
   A. Old Testament
      1. Psa. 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.”
      2. Psa. 145:17 “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”
      3. Isa. 6:3 “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”
   B. New Testament
      1. Rev. 4:8 “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”
      2. 1 Pet. 1:15-16 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

II. The Meaning of Holy.
   A. It is from:
      1. Hebrew is qodesh
      2. The Greek ἅγιος (hagios)
      3. It is translated “holy,” “sanctified,” or “saint.”
   B. The basic etymology of holy is “apart from the earth.”
      1. In the Old Testament God commanded to build altars and referred to these altars as holy.
      2. Often God commanded that these altars be off the ground, so they were built on stilts or legs.
      3. These words have two applications in the Scriptures.
         a. Free of sin
         b. Dedicated or consecrated.
      4. When holy is used in reference to God or man it possesses both of these applications.
      5. When holy is used in reference to objects or things it only possesses the application of dedicated or consecrated.

III. Holy in Reference to God.
   A. God is free of sin.
      1. God is light; light expresses the holiness of God.
         a. 1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
            (1) In Greek a double negative, as is used here, is used for emphasis.
            (2) Context is that of sin, 1 John 1:6-2:2 “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness. \(^\text{10}\) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. \(^\text{2}\) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: \(^\text{2}\) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also \textit{for the sins of the whole world}.”

(3) In regard to sin there is no, not any darkness (sin) in God.

b. Jam. 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

(1) Look at God from any standpoint and there is no variableness, changing.

(2) God is absolute light.

2. Hab. 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”

3. 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

a. Man cannot stand before God on his own.

b. Some people say, “I live a pretty good life (morally good) thus I think God will save me.”

(1) Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

(2) Gal. 3:22 “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”

(3) 1 John 1:8, 10 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. \(^\text{10}\) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

c. God cannot look upon, tolerate, hear man because man has sinned, and God is holy.

d. Man has no access to God: save by Christ.

B. Christ is our propitiation and atonement.

1. Atonement means “cover up.”

a. Has its basis in Hebrew \textit{kaphar}, which referred to the mercy seat which covered the ark of the covenant.

b. Christ has become our atonement, our coverup.

c. When we are in Christ, when God looks, He sees Christ not us.

d. Christ is holy, sinless, and the Father can accept His Son.

e. We have access to the Father through Christ.

2. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

3. Rom. 6:3-7 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? \(^\text{7}\) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. \(^\text{3}\) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also \textit{in the likeness of his resurrection}: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with \textit{him}, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. \(^\text{5}\) For he that is dead is freed from sin.”

C. John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

IV. GOD CALLS UPON US TO BE HOLY.

A. 1 Pet. 1:15-16 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; \(^\text{16}\) Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

B. Eph. 1:4 “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”
C. We are holy in Christ.

1. Rom. 6:1-7 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.”

2. Gal. 3:26-27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ”

Conclusion: Only by being holy as God is holy will we have access to God and hope of eternal life. Become holy today by obeying the Gospel.