

Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

Topic 2 - The Doctrine of God
Lesson 33 - The Attributes of God: Holiness

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Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty

- “God’s holiness is His inherent and absolute greatness, in which He is perfectly distinct above everything outside Himself, and is absolutely morally separate from sin.” - MacArthur, pg. 183
- “God’s holiness means that He is separated from sin and devoted to seeking His own honor.” - Grudem, pg. 202
- The Hebrew word for “to be holy” is derived from a root word which means to cut, or separate. It is one of the most prominent religious words of the Old Testament and is applied primarily to God. The same idea is conveyed by the word used in the New Testament, so we see that holiness is not primarily a moral or religious quality, but a matter of position or relationship existing between God and some person or thing. - Berkhof, pg. 60-61

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- Majestic Holiness speaks to the fact that God is inherently great and resists all compromises of His character. There He is transcendently distinct from all His creatures in infinite majesty. He is majestically unique.
- Holiness qualifies all of His other attributes, and all of His other attributes qualify His holiness.
- God is the “Most Holy One.”
- Holiness is demonstrated in the Tabernacle as it was a place separated from evil and the sin of the world. The first room was called the “holy place” and was dedicated to God’s service. Then there was a veil to further separate the “most holy place” where the ark of the Covenant was kept, the place most separated from sin and devoted to God’s presence. - Exodus 26:33

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- Exodus 15:11 “Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”
- 1 Sam. 2:2 “No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.
- Psalm 22:3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.
- Psalm 71:22 Also with the lute I will praise You—And Your faithfulness, O my God! To You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.
- Psalm 97:12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.
- Psalm 99:3 Let them praise Your great and awesome name— He is holy.

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- Isaiah 5:16 But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, And God who is holy shall be hallowed in righteousness.
- Isaiah 6:3 And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”
- Isaiah 43:14 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon, And bring them all down as fugitives— The Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships. 15 I am the Lord, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King.”
- Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

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- Mark 1:24 “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”
- Luke 1:49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name.
- John 17:11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.
- Revelation 4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”
- Revelation 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

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- Ethical and Moral Holiness - since God is inherently great and therefore transcendentally distinct from everything outside Himself, He is most certainly separate from sin, being morally and ethically perfect, abhorring sin, and demanding purity in His moral creatures.
- Lev. 11:44 For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth.
- Lev. 19:2 “Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.
- Lev. 20:26 And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.
- 1 Peter 1:15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

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- Joshua 24:19 But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.
- Psalm 5:5 The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.
- Psalm 7:11 God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day.
- Ezekiel 39:7 So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel.

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- Isaiah 1:12 “When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts? 13 Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies— I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. 14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. 16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, 17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

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- Amos 5:21 “I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies. 22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. 23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.
- Habakkuk 1:13 You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?
- Zechariah 8:17 Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,’ Says the Lord.”

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- God's holiness provides a pattern for His people to imitate.
- “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy.” (Lev. 19:2)
- Exodus 19:4 ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”
- 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

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- Separation from sin.
- Devotion to God and godliness (a right view of God).
- Strive for holiness - Heb. 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.
- 2 Cor. 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

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- The Church is expected to grow into a holy temple in the Lord.
- Eph. 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,
- Eph. 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
- Zechariah 14:20 In that day “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the Lord’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar. 21 Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the Lord of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts.

Book Recommendations

- *Holiness* - JC Ryle
- *The Holiness of God* - RC Sproul
- *The Holy War* - John Bunyan
- *The Mortification of Sin* - John Owen
- *The Hole in Our Holiness* - Kevin DeYoung
- *Licensed to Kill: A Field Manual for Mortifying Sin* - Brian Hedges
- *Hit List: Taking Aim at the Seven Deadly Sins* - Brian Hedges