

Systematic Theology session 14
The Doctrine of God, "I Am Who I Am," Part 8

- Introduction to communicable attributes.
 - As Christians, we are called to imitate God in His communicable attributes.
 - We cannot imitate God's incommunicable attributes; His incommunicable attributes cannot be shared with His creation. They are "badges of divinity."
 - We don't imitate God's communicable attributes in order to attempt to earn our salvation.
 - Now that we are saved, we seek to imitate God's communicable attributes because of our new status as children of God. We are to be holy because, as obedient children, we are motivated to be like Him.
- The communicable attribute of holiness.
 - Holiness is God's central and supreme perfection, and His most distinguishing feature.
 - The two-fold definition of holiness.
 - Holiness is the separateness of God. God is separate from and exalted above the sphere of the common.
 - God's separateness from and exaltation above the sphere of the common is linked to the Creator-creature distinction.
 - God is holy—separate and exalted—by nature and essence. Anything that God proclaims to be holy in His creation is because God selects it from the sphere of the common, and separates it to His purposes.
 - "God is holy in His essence; people, places, and things are made holy by God's energies."
 - As Christians, we are called to imitation of this communicable attribute.
 - God has already pronounced us to be saints—separate and holy to Him and His purposes, because of the application of the redemption purchased by Christ. We did not earn this.
 - In imitation of God's separateness from the common, we are now to value the sphere of the holy above the sphere of the common.
 - Holiness is also the moral excellence of God. God cannot sin, and He cannot look upon sin. He is absolutely morally pure.
 - This aspect of holiness is: "The perfection of God where He wills and maintains His own moral excellence, abhors sin, and demands purity in His moral creatures."
 - We are called to imitate God's moral excellence:
 - We still do sin in this present life. But, we are to imitate God's moral excellence in the process of sanctification.
 - We seek to not sin, but this is not an attempt to earn salvation. Our motivation is our new household relationship to God, gratitude to God, the fruit of our new nature by the power and work of the Holy Spirit, and the reality of our separation unto God.