



Lesson 2 – God Is Holy

Ultimately, it's impossible to set God's attributes against each other. But in Scripture there is one description that seems to rise above the others in importance when describing God: His holiness.

What Does It Mean to Be Holy?

Before we can understand what it means that God is holy, we need to understand what holiness is. Although there is some debate over this word, the idea that best sums up the word "holy" is *set apart*. Normally this meant that something had been set apart specifically for use in the worship of a god/the God. If the word holy means separate, what does it mean that God is holy? Dishes, days of the week, land, and even people can be dedicated to God; they can be holy. But what then does it mean that God Himself is holy? God's holiness is seen in two distinct ways, which we will now study.

God's Holiness

God's Holiness Means that He Is Separate from All _____ – He Is _____

God is separate from all that exists because He is far greater than everything else that exists. When we compare God to anything in creation, God is more than just better than His creation; He is in an entirely different category. We might say there are two types of things that exist in the Universe: (1) the Creator and (2) everything He created.



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God's Holiness Means that He Is Separate from All

_____ – He Is _____

When people hear that God is holy, they normally think that means He is separate from everything evil. God's holiness means more than that, but it doesn't mean less. God is totally and completely separate from sin; this makes Him holy and means that He will not tolerate or overlook wickedness.

The Impact of God's Holiness

God's Holiness Means He Alone Should be _____

Because God is separate from all creation, He and He alone should be worshipped. Isaiah 6:3 connects the holiness of God with glory of God, and elsewhere in Isaiah God warns that He will not share His glory with another (Isaiah 42:8; 48:11). God's majestic holiness requires that we rid ourselves of all other gods that would rival our affection for Him (Exodus 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 5:6-7).

God's Holiness Requires Him to _____

Since God is separate from all that is evil, He cannot tolerate evil and must address it. God will judge sin. This should give us hope when people wrong us, but it should also cause us to fear when we sin. The infinitely holy God takes all sin incredibly seriously. Above all, this should motivate us to run to Christ, who took the punishment for our sins so that God's righteous wrath does not fall on us (Romans 3:23-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

God's Holiness _____ Holiness

When we see the holiness of God for what it is and come to understand who God is, we are then most clearly able to see ourselves for who we really are. Many people think they are doing alright until they are put up against the brilliant holiness of God. Isaiah was given a view of the holiness of God, and his response was to confess his own and the sin of those around him (Isaiah 6:5-7). God has said, "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16). His character sets the standard for us, and He demands our own growth in holiness.

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