

The Holiness of God

Holy - God is independently, infinitely, immutably, Holy. The sum of all moral excellence is found in Him. He is absolute purity, unsullied even by the shadow of sin.

What Does it Mean to Be “Holy”?

- I. Old Testament - In the O.T. the root word for holy is the Hebrew word *qadas*. It means to be “set apart”.
 - A. Ritual holiness - A person was in a state of holiness when he observed the restrictions of the Law. (e.g. civil, dietary, religious rituals)
 - a. This was done to show a distinction between the nation of Israel and the other nations of the world.
 - B. Moral holiness - A person was in a state of holiness when he carried out the moral commands of the Law. (Lev. 19:1-37)
 - a. As being part of the covenant community, Israel’s moral actions were to reflect the moral character of God.
- II. New Testament - Every Christian has been positionally been “set apart” unto God. That is, we are called Holy. In the N.T., the predominate word for holy is the Greek word *hagios*.
 - A. Moral holiness - In the N.T., a person is in a state of holiness when he carries out the moral commands of the new covenant.
- III. Biblical Examples.
 - A. Matt. 22:35-40 - All of the Law can be summed up in these two commands.
 - a. Love your neighbor.
 - b. Love God.
 - B. God accepts actions based on a holy heart motivation but rejects actions of external Holiness. (Matt. 23:1-12; Col. 2:20-23)
- IV. In light of what we have learned about God’s holiness, how can we apply it to our own lives so that we can be holy in our experience?
 - A. Col. 3:1-17, Romans 12:1-3 By Renewing our minds daily.



What Have We Learned?

The call for N.T. holiness is a call to let our heavenly father be seen and glorified in our lives as we reflect his holy character to a lost world.

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