

Holiness of God – Part 1

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I. Introduction. (Exodus 15, Job 15, Job 25, Psalm 22, Proverbs 9:10, Isaiah 6:3)

A. It is said that Da Vinci, painting the “Last Supper” had great difficulty painting Jesus face, knowing that there was no way he could depict it.

B. There is hardly any use for anyone to try to depict the holiness of God.

C. The hardest thing to grasp about God intellectually is His infinitive; however, the holiness of God is beyond intellectual grasp and brings a sense of personal vilement.

1. We are fallen beings - morally, spiritually, and physically.
2. We are born into a tainted world, learning impurity from our cradles.
3. Everything is dirty - our whitest whites and our noblest heroes.
4. We learn to expect little.
5. Man loses and has lost the ability to conceive of the holy.

A. It is more than purity or moral excellence; it is God Himself. God is holiness itself beyond the power of thought or word to express.

II. Expressing the holy.

A. Man cannot express holiness; he can only use weaker associations to speak of it since it is so beyond him.

B. God cannot tell us of holiness by language.

C. The imagery of Exodus 19 was an effort of God to demonstrate through association what He could not say by words.

III. Two kinds of holiness.

A. The word to express the Holy One.

1. The word holy means in one context, the awful Thing.

B. Holiness by contact.

1. Be holy as I am holy. (1 Peter 1:16)

IV. The Holy One and His creatures.

Application questions.

1. Why is holiness so difficult to express with language?

2. How does God express holiness to us, and what is important about this?

3. The holiness possessed by God alone is something that draws us to be in awe, hence the speaker's definition of the Holy One, being the "awful Thing." What can you do to cultivate a greater sense of awe towards God in your personal life?
