

Holiness

Notes by David Green

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We understand by **the holiness of God** that this perfection is unique to God.

We understand by **the holiness of God** what the Scripture attributes to God.

The general notion of holiness is separation from the common and ordinary, to what is sacred and good. **This idea of holiness applies to days and things and persons.**

Holiness of days, days, weeks or years set apart for the activities prescribed by the Lord.

Holiness of things; the vessels of the tabernacle, and the vestments of the Priests were said to be holy, because they were set aside for distinctive use in the service of God.

Holiness of persons is two-fold, both relative and external, which show the special relation of a person to God; they were called, Priests, Prophets, Seers, or holy men: now called saints;

Holiness is separation from moral imperfection, from sin and impurity in all its forms. This is the primary meaning; it is negative, and signifies the absence of and the remoteness of sin:

The Scripture explains this separation by opposition to sin and impurity,

2Corinthians 7:1 Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness; *here holiness is opposed to all filthiness.*

We find holy and without blame put together,

Ephesians 1:4 Holy and without blame: holy and without blemish, Ephesians 5:27

Holy, harmless, and undefiled. Hebrews 7:26

This negative idea implies something positive; it does not only signify the absence of sin, for we cannot conceive the absence of sin without the grace of God.

In each area of our lives in which we are made holy, corruption in all its forms is replaced by grace.

Habitual holiness, separation from sin, is conformity to the holiness of God; By this we understand what holiness in God is; it indicates the unique eminence and purity of the divine nature, separated and removed entirely from moral imperfection, that which we call sin.

There is in God no such thing as malice, or envy, or hatred, or revenge, or impatience, or cruelty, or tyranny, or injustice, or falsehood, or unfaithfulness or error or weakness.

If there is any other thing that signifies sin, vice, or moral imperfection, then the holiness of God tells us the divine nature is not touched by it.

There are many texts that set forth the holiness of God.

James 1:13 God cannot be tempted with evil.

Job 8:3 Doth God pervert judgment, or doth the Almighty pervert justice?

Job 34:10, 12 Far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity. Yea surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

Romans 9:14 Is there then unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

Zephaniah 3:5 The just Lord is in the midst thereof, he will not do iniquity.

Deuteronomy 32:4 A God of truth, and without iniquity.

1Samuel 15:29 The strength of Israel will not lie.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie hath promised.

Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie.

Holiness is associated with all the moral perfections of the divine nature,

Hosea 11:9 I am the holy one in the midst of thee;

Psalms 145:17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

Romans 7:12 The commandment is holy, and just, and good.

Revelation 3:7 These things saith he that is holy, he that is true.

Revelation 6:10 How long, O Lord, holy and true?

Psalm 105:42 He remembered his holy promise; holy, that is, in respect of the faithfulness of it.

Isa 55:3 The sure mercies of David; the holy mercies of David, which will not fail.