

The Holiness of God, Cont.

(Holiness of God is part one of section "God's Relational Attributes")

Series: The Attributes of God

Foundations ABF

March 12, 2006

INTRO:

Explain/review – God is holy.

ILLUS: Signed baseball, or old nasty jersey signed by Michael Jordan. We've declared those things "sacred" – sometimes to the point of idolizing them.

Holy = sacred, set apart.

- Speaks to his nature (He is set apart above all else, "transcendent.")
- Also speaks to his character – he is morally superior to all else.

THINGS TO LEARN REGARDING GOD'S HOLINESS:

- God IS holy (last time)
- God DEMANDS holiness and REPELS unholiness
- God MAKES you holy through blood of Christ

**THIS WEEK WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON: GOD DEMANDS HOLINESS AND REPELS UNHOLINESS**

Part of being holy is a rejection, a repulsion of anything that isn't holy.

ILLUS: Water on a hot stove. Stove can't not be hot. God can't not be holy. God can't not repel unholiness.

PS 5:4 You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell.

HAB 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

PR 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates,

seven that are detestable to him:

PR 6:17 haughty eyes,

a lying tongue,

hands that shed innocent blood,

PR 6:18 a heart that devises wicked schemes,

feet that are quick to rush into evil,

PR 6:19 a false witness who pours out lies

and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

NOTE: Bible also says God hates idolatry (Deut. 16:22), occultism (Deut. 18:9-14), lying and injustice (Zech. 8:17), divorce (Mal. 2:16)

God's holiness can be seen in at least THREE major reactions to sin:

1) Jealousy

EX.20:5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...

EX 34:14 Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

2 COR. 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

DT 32:21 They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols.

NOTE: GOD IS ABOUT GLORIFYING HIMSELF, EXALTING HIMSELF. Self-centered? Yes. Sinful? No.

- Self-centeredness is wrong for us because we are not God. When we are self-centered, we are committing idolatry – putting ourselves on God's throne.
- Self-centeredness is not wrong for God because he IS God! In fact, if he put anything other than himself on the throne, he would be committing idolatry. He must be about exalting himself because he is God!

EX: SONG – “God loves people more than anything.” Not true.

2) Justice

NA 1:2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God;  
the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.  
The LORD takes vengeance on his foes  
and maintains his wrath against his enemies.

NA 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power;  
the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.  
His way is in the whirlwind and the storm,  
and clouds are the dust of his feet.

DT 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and ***all his ways are just.***  
A faithful God who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he.

PS 11:7 For the LORD is righteous, ***he loves justice***; upright men will see his face.

PS 101:1 I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will sing praise.

N O T E : N o t a l o t o f s o n g s a b o u t G o d ' s j u s t i c e !

ISA 5:16 But the LORD Almighty ***will be exalted by his justice***, and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness.

NOTE: JUSTICE is a godly characteristic. N T says "m e r c y t r i u m p h s o v e r j u s t i c e" – but justice is G O O D , n o t e v i l . G o d "w i l l b e e x a l t e d b y h i s j u s t i c e ." H i s j u s t i c e shows his great holiness and his separateness from sin.

NOTE HOW THE LORD LOVES JUSTICE:

AM 5:21 "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. AM 5:22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. AM 5:23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. AM 5:24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

N O T E : P a r t o f G o d ' s h o l i n e s s i s h i s j u s t i c e . H e i s n o t o n l y r i g h t e o u s a n d p u r e , h e i s a l s o p e r f e c t l y j u s t . H e w i l l n o t t o l e r a t e s i n g o i n g u n p u n i s h e d . H e c a n n o t . I t i s a g a i n s t h i s n a t u r e . H e c a n ' t l e t i t g o u n p u n i s h e d a n y m o r e t h a n h e c a n m a k e a s q u a r e c i r c l e o r n o t l o v e . H e c a n p u t i t o f f , b u t o n l y t e m p o r a r i l y , b e c a u s e h e i s o u t s i d e o f t i m e a n d h e k n o w s t h a t h i s j u s t i c e i s c o m i n g . G o d i s l o v e – c a n l o v e s t o p l o v i n g ? G o d i s a l s o h o l y – a n d h o l i n e s s c a n n o t e v e r b e u n f a i r .

NOTE TIMES WHERE GOD SEEMS OVERLY VENGEFUL OR UNJUST:

- Nadab and Abihu.
  - o Lev. 10:1-2
  - o Ex. 30:9-10
  - o Lev. 10:3
  
- Uzzah.
  - o 1 Chron. 13:3-4, 7-11
  - o Num. 4:4,15
  
- See list of capital crimes in Sproul, 146
  - o O T C O D E = E x a m p l e o f G o d ' s G R A C E !
  - o See Sproul, 148
  
- Gen. 2:17
  - o NOTE: Kjv – the day (yom) you eat of it you will surely die.
  - o Did God lie? Unjust?
  - o Is he unjust to stay the execution? Is he unjust at any time to enact judgment?

SEE SPROUL QUOTES – 150-153.

- Luke 13:1-5
  - Followers were saying, “Why would God allow ... ?”
  - Jesus said, “You’re lucky it wasn’t you!”
  - Sproul called it “misplaced amazement” – they should have been asking, “Why didn’t God let a tower fall on me today?”
  - NOTE: Exo 33:19 And the LORD said, “... ***I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy***, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”
  - GOD DOES NOT PROMISE TO GIVE OUT HIS MERCY EQUALLY TO EVERYONE.
  - ILLUSTRATION: You’re driving 85 in a 65-mile-zone. You are “going with the traffic.” Policeman pulls you over and gives you a ticket. Are you being treated unjustly? NO. You are getting what you deserve. The fact that others received mercy and were not punished does not mean you were treated unjustly. The standard of justice is dictated by an understanding between you, the law and the law enforcer. In fact, you can’t even claim ignorance. You have a duty to know ... and to obey. If you refuse to do so, you forfeit your right to drive.
  - The Bible says God’s law is written on our hearts. We know there is a right and a wrong. But we violate what we know to be right and do our own thing anyway, out of rebellion against God. That’s sin, and for sinning you forfeit your right to live. If God chooses to stay the punishment of your neighbor a little longer, that doesn’t make him unjust to enact your punishment today.

**NOTE THE JUSTICE IN JESUS CHRIST:**

MT 12:18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. MT 12:19 He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. MT 12:20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.

**THIS VICTORY OF JUSTICE WILL NOT HAPPEN UNTIL THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:**

REV 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. [12] His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. [13] He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. [14] The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. [15] Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. [16] On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. REV 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, [18] so that you may eat the flesh of kings,

generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

ILLUS: JOHNNY CARSON-BILLY GRAHAM . Carson: "You know, if Jesus came back, we'd probably do him in again." Graham: "The Bible says Jesus is coming back – but the next time in justice and wrath, and no one will do him in."

### 3) Wrath

PS 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs;  
the Lord scoffs at them. [SPEAKING OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH WHO  
HAVE OPPOSED HIM]

PS 2:5 Then he rebukes them in his anger  
and terrifies them in his wrath...

SEE IS. 63:1-6

ISA 63:1 Who is this coming from Edom,  
from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson?  
Who is this, robed in splendor,  
striding forward in the greatness of his strength?  
"It is I, speaking in righteousness,  
mighty to save."

ISA 63:2 Why are your garments red,  
like those of one treading the winepress?

ISA 63:3 "I have trodden the winepress alone;  
from the nations no one was with me.

I trampled them in my anger  
and trod them down in my wrath;  
their blood spattered my garments,  
and I stained all my clothing.

ISA 63:4 For the day of vengeance was in my heart,  
and the year of my redemption has come.

ISA 63:5 I looked, but there was no one to help,  
I was appalled that no one gave support;  
so my own arm worked salvation for me,  
and my own wrath sustained me.

ISA 63:6 I trampled the nations in my anger;  
in my wrath I made them drunk  
and poured their blood on the ground."

SEE Deut. 32:21-23

DT 32:21 They made me jealous by what is no god  
and angered me with their worthless idols.

I will make them envious by those who are not a people;  
I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.

DT 32:22 For a fire has been kindled by my wrath,

one that burns to the realm of death below.  
It will devour the earth and its harvests  
and set afire the foundations of the mountains.  
DT 32:23 "I will heap calamities upon them  
and spend my arrows against them.

QUOTE: (from Cottrell, p.94) Leon Morris says that the OT alone has over twenty words expressing this concept in over 580 passages.

ILLUS: Hebrew phrase often translated „God was angry“ is literally “hot in the nose.” Good description!

PS 18:7 The earth trembled and quaked,  
and the foundations of the mountains shook;  
they trembled because he was angry.  
PS 18:8 Smoke rose from his nostrils;  
consuming fire came from his mouth,  
burning coals blazed out of it.

NOT JUST O.T.

RO 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...

HEB 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, [29] for our "God is a consuming fire."

ILLUS: DROPS OF WATER ON A HOT STOVE. God's holiness is so powerful and “hot” that sin is repelled by him. Heat the stove up to 450 degrees and drop a tiny piece of paper on it – the paper will immediately burn away. That's sin and evil in the presence of God.

QUOTE: (Cottrell, 95) “To be the object of God's wrath is described in the Bible as a horrible experience: „It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31). Those who are under God's wrath are called his enemies (Rom. 5:10; Col 1:21; Jas 4:4). „Behold, I am against you, he says to those under his wrath (Jer 50:31; Ezek 21:3). „The face of the Lord is against those who do evil (1 Pet. 3:12).

NOTE: DOES GOD “LOVE SINNER/HATE SIN”?

PS 5:5 The arrogant cannot stand in your presence;  
you hate all who do wrong.  
PS 5:6 You destroy those who tell lies;  
bloodthirsty and deceitful men  
the LORD abhors.

PS 11:5 The LORD examines the righteous,  
but the wicked and those who love violence  
his soul hates.

PS 11:6 On the wicked he will rain  
fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be their lot.

PS 11:7 For the LORD is righteous,  
he loves justice;  
upright men will see his face.

MT 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are  
cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

MT. 7:23 Jesus "I never knew you"

NOTE: how do we reconcile God's love and hate? If God is love, can he stop  
loving? There is obvious tension here. One possible explanation: Opposite of love is  
apathy, not hate. Can you hate and love someone at same time? Yes. In fact, the  
stronger your love for someone, the more likely you are to have feelings of hatred if  
that someone betrays you.

LET ME SEE IF I CAN ILLUSTRATE THIS JUSTICE AND WRATH ...

ILLUS: IMAGINE SOMEONE KIDNAPS YOUR CHILD ... tortures, murders the one  
you love. Judge fines him \$500 and lets him go. What value has that judge placed on  
your child?

If you think God should just wink at sin, you do not understand the seriousness of sin.  
God abhors sin. He cannot stand it. He must get rid of it. It is a stench in his nose.

ILLUS OF GOD'S HOLINESS/OUR SIN: Cleaning up Johnny's diarrhea/vomiting.

- If he's going to stay in the house, he must be cleaned up!
- Because I love him, I'm willing to go into the stench and clean it.
- Some people don't want to be cleaned.
- Others, after they've discovered cleansing, want to return to stinking.
- Who am I most patient with – the baby who can't help it or an older child who  
thinks I should clean up his poop because he's too lazy to go to the john?
- Who is God more patient with – the person who has never received cleansing or  
the person who thinks it's God's job to clean him up all the time? (note Jesus  
anger at Pharisees and patience with woman caught in adultery).

2) GOD HAS MADE YOU HOLY THROUGH CHRIST'S BLOOD

RO 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to  
which the Law and the Prophets testify. [22] This righteousness from God comes through  
faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, [23] for all have sinned  
and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified freely by his grace through the

redemption that came by Christ Jesus. [25] God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- [26] he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

1 JN 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

HEB. 10:9 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.