

The Holiness of God, Part One

In series: The Attributes of God

Foundations ABF

February 26, 2006

INTRO:

- Discuss one more Non-relational Attribute: The Beauty of God
 - o PS 27:4 One thing I ask of the LORD,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.
 - o PS 50:2 From Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines forth.
 - o Controversial for me to say this but.. I believe: Beauty is NOT in the eyes of the beholder.
 - Ultimate standard of beauty is God.
 - We have amazing agreement on what is beautiful and what is not.

EX: When we mentioned beautiful places in creation a few weeks ago – Hawaii, Rocky Mountains, Kentucky horse farms – nobody said, “You think that’s beautiful? I think Hawaii is so ugly!” You might have a personal favorite, but we all agree those are strikingly magnificent or beautiful places.

TIME magazine had a front cover a few years ago proving that our judgment of beautiful people is much more scientific and predictable than they once thought.

- We may train ourselves from exposure and sociological pressures to think a certain deviancy is beautiful – long earlobes in Africa, screeching in heavy metal music, etc. But we must be exposed and trained to believe such things. Nobody likes the screeching in heavy metal music the first time he hears it.
- The world has so conditioned us that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder that we have accepted it. We have completely given art over to a very base, ungodly foundation.

- Introduce God's Relational Attributes

○ These are attributes that God has that are primarily seen in relation to his human creatures. God would still theoretically be these things if we never existed. But he would never exercise these characteristics.

- EX : I might be a kind person but if I'm the only person in the world, I never show my kindness.
- Certain of God's characteristics would never be shown if it were not for human beings with free will.
- THREE CATEGORIES:

God's holiness

God's truthfulness

God's love

TODAY : GOD'S HOLINESS

We can speak of God's holiness in TWO ways: ontological holiness, ethical holiness.

- 1) God's ontological holiness. (ontological has to do with existence). God IS holy, meaning "set apart," different from all creation. We could have put this as another one

of God's non-relational attributes. He is different from everything else even if he never relates to anything else. He is set apart, holy.

EX 15:11 "Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?"

Who is like you--

majestic in holiness,

awesome in glory,

working wonders?

- 2) God's ethical holiness. The Bible often defines holiness more specifically as set apart from sin or imperfection. HOLY==551 TIMES

I. GOD IS HOLY

READ IS. 6:1-8

NOTE: SERAPHS = firey ones

ILLUS: repeating words = Hebrew idiom, means double/triple

- See Gen. 14:10 – "pit pits" (bi'er bi'er)
- We'd say "very, very, very holy"

NOTE ISAIAH'S RESPONSE

- Prophet, the one who is given privilege of seeing God
- "I'm undone (KJV), ruined (NIV) – I am a man of unclean lips"

NOTE: Jn 12:41 says Isaiah saw Jesus.

READ LUKE 5:4-8 – Peter has same response when he realizes who Jesus is.

ISA 8:13 The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread,

THIS COMMAND IS NOT REPELLED IN NT. IN FACT, JESUS SAID....

LK 12:5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

HAVE WE GROWN TOO CASUAL WITH THE THINGS OF GOD?

2 SAM 6:3-7 (Uzzah touches ark and dies)

ACTS 5 (Ananias and Sapphira die for lying to H.S.)

- ACTS 5:11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

AC 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

PHP 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

READ HEB. 12:18-28

1PE 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

ILLUS: "I can't wait to see Jesus and give him a big hug!"

When you come face-to-face with God, you will not feel like giving him a hug.

In fact, if I understand the Bible correctly, we will still fear him even in heaven.

REV 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. [7] He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

REV 19:5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

"Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear him,

both small and great!"

We will love him, we will worship him, we will be drawn to him, but we will also fear him because he is so much holier than we are, even after we have been made holy by his touch.

In fact, our love for God will be greater than we thought possible. We will draw near to him, long to be with him, worship him... and at the same time our awe of him will be even greater than we could imagine.

If those who take too casually the things of God were immediately struck down dead, and if we will fear God even in heaven when we see him in all of his glory, dare we take the things of God too casually on this earth?

- prayer
- worship
- Lord's supper
- Baptism
- Scripture
- God's leaders