

SET APART: Week 1 - God is Holy

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. In your own description, describe God`s holiness?
2. What is the difference of purity and holiness?

WORD

At the end of this series, we will have a more thoroughly biblical view of holiness that glorifies God, that will help us transform our hearts, and increases missional passion.

We will have a better understanding of the Holiness of God, so we can revere Him in better understanding and we can live holy before Him.

On this week, our topic is “**God is Holy**”. We will talk about the Holiness of God and we worship Him in the beauty of His holiness.

Psalm 96:1–9 (ESV)

1 Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! 2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! 8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! 9 Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

How do we understand holiness? If we know God, Yahweh our creator, and believed in Him and His word, then, understanding holiness is not an issue. Leviticus 19: 1-2, Isaiah 6:3 speaks about God`s holiness.

The Hebrew word for holy is, “qadosh,” means, consecrated, sanctified, dedicated, set apart, and separated from the world.

What does it mean to be holy? If God is Holy? Who are we? Genesis 1:26a-27. *26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* God’s call to holiness is more than simply changing our actions our ways of life or something to achieve: It is a call to set our hope on the grace of God through Jesus our Lord to be fully transformed and to live set apart.

How is holiness important for being a follower of Christ? The word "holy" originally meant, set apart, as Christians our life is different, and sacred. In the context of Christian faith, it signifies being set apart from sin and dedicated to God. But it also speaks to a wholeness and completeness found in aligning ourselves with God's will and purpose.

What are some common misconceptions about holiness that can hinder our understanding and pursuit of it? Some mistakenly believe holiness boils down to following specific rules about clothing (White dress), food (Chocolate meat), music, or other external behaviors. (Ask the congregation, what music genre do you like to listen to? - Kpop, hip hop, rock, contemporary Christian, jazz...just the way you are)

Another misconception on holiness is thinking that it is about self-denial. Many view holiness as a restrictive, joyless pursuit that involves constant self-denial and sacrificing all earthly pleasures.

DISCUSSION

What is your personal misconception of holiness? Why holiness is important as a follower of Christ?

WORD

Psalm 96:9 says, Worship the Lord in the splendour of holiness. The phrase "worship the LORD in the splendor or beauty of His holiness" carries a rich

and multifaceted meaning for those who believe in the LORD. **Here are some ways we can understand and apply this command in our lives:**

1. **Acknowledge God`s Holy Nature.** Before we can truthfully worship the LORD, we have to first understand, acknowledge, and recognize His holiness. We need to comprehend His glory, His greatness, and His majesty. Worshipping "in the beauty of His holiness" means acknowledging His divine grandeur and approaching Him with reverence, awe, and humility. God is holy because He is separate – separate from creation and from its defilement, impurity or contamination. God is separate from sin, from evil, and from all imperfection. His power and purpose are not diminished or spoiled by the failure of His servants. His holiness is not compromised by our ungodliness – He remains set apart and perfect. David declares the greatness of the Lord in Psalm 96:1-9 (ESV)
2. **Ascribing Glory to God. Psalm 96-7-8, Psalm 29:1-2, I Chronicles 16:28-29.** The command to give or ascribe glory to the Lord basically means, “to bring and present a gift”. As we acknowledge the Lord as the great and glorious king, we come and bring Him an offering that is commensurate with His majesty. As we acknowledge the Lord, just don’t come empty handed, or come with your petition but come first to Exalt his Name and Bless his holy Name.
3. **Align our lives with God`s Holiness. Psalm 96:4, Psalm 96:9b, Proverbs 8:13** Our understanding of personal holiness is grounded in the holiness of God. True worship extends beyond the confines of formal rituals and prayers. It refers to the totality of our lives, encompassing our thoughts, actions, and choices. Worshipping "in the beauty of His holiness" implies aligning and living our lives according to His righteous standards, striving for purity and reflecting His holy nature in our own conduct. Just as our God is holy, we should be holy in every aspect of our lives - in our behavior, conduct, speech, thoughts, and lifestyle.

DISCUSSION

Why is it important to apply all these points in our life?

LIFE APPLICATION

We worship God in the beauty of His holiness as we acknowledge who He is, give Him the Glory He deserves, and align our lives according to our Holy standard. Let us thank God who is holy because through Him, we can also be holy, by His grace and through the presence of the Holy Spirit in us. Pray for God's grace so we can walk in holiness before Him. Ask Him for the discipline to remember and worship Him daily and live life as a response to His holiness. Surrender any thought, word, or action you may have that does not glorify God. Pray for wisdom, grace, and resolve to live a holy life. If you are one of the redeemed in Christ, then thank the Lord, sing His praises, and proclaim His greatness in all the earth.

Other practical application is *sing even though you don't feel like it*. We perceive that our minds are more devoutly and earnestly elevated into a flame or piety by holy words themselves when they are thus sung, than when they are not.

Another is Sing in Community (Ephesians 5:19) The Christian church sings.. its singing is not a concert. But from inner, material necessity it sings. Singing is the highest form of human expression. What we can and must say quite confidently is that the church which does not sing is not the church.

Also, Sing with a life offered to Christ. Romans 12:1

DISCUSSION

How is our hearts transformed on this week passage?

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

Leviticus 19:2b ESV

You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

PRAYER

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.



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