

# God is Holy, Holy, Holy

## I. Introduction

### A. What might be a cause of weak faith and boredom in worship?

“The Christian’s instincts of trust and worship are stimulated very powerfully by knowledge of the greatness of God. But this is knowledge which Christians today largely lack: and that is one reason why our faith is so feeble and our worship so flabby. We are modern people, and modern people, though they cherish great thoughts of themselves, have as a rule small thoughts of God.”<sup>1</sup>

### B. The Holiness of God

“Power is God’s hand or arm, omniscience His eye, mercy His bowels, eternity His duration, but holiness is His beauty.”<sup>2</sup>

### C. “Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good”<sup>3</sup>

## II. Defining God’s Holiness

### A. Towards a definition

1. To say God is holy is first and foremost to say he is majestically in a category all his own.
2. “When the Bible speaks about God’s holiness, the primary thrust of those statements is to refer to God’s transcendence, to His magnificence, to that sense in which God is higher and superior to anything there is in the creaturely realm.”<sup>4</sup>

### B. Definition

1. Definition: *God is awesome in majesty and without any blemish.*
2. *Awesome in majesty*
  - a. *Majestic* carries the ideas of regal, imposing, weighty/glorious.
  - b. *Awesome* - tremble-inducing in his greatness.
3. *Without any blemish*
  - a. Eternally without flaw or stain, but incorruptibly beautiful and flawless.
  - b. In relation to a fallen world, he is set apart from any blemish, defilement, or evil.

### C. “Holy” is the only word that is used of God in an emphatic three-fold way (Is. 6:3, Rev. 4:8).

### D. Key verses to meditate on: Isaiah 57:15 and Revelation 4:8

## III. Biblical Evidence of God’s Holiness

### A. Glimpsing God’s Holiness – Isaiah 6:1-6

1. Entering the Throne Room of God (Is. 6:1-4)
2. Standing before the Holy God (Is. 6:5-7)

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<sup>1</sup> J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, 83.

<sup>2</sup> Stephen Charnock, Quoted in A.W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, 40.

<sup>3</sup> CS Lewis’s Mr. Beaver in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.

<sup>4</sup> RC Sproul, *The Holiness of God*, video series at Ligonier.com. Session 4.

**B. God is awesome in majesty**

1. Isaiah 57:15
2. Revelation 4:5-11
3. Psalm 99:1-5
4. The “Holy One” (Ps. 71:22, Hosea 11:9)

**C. God is without blemish**

1. He is beautifully without spot or stain, separate from all that would corrupt or spoil or discolor his greatness (1 John 1:5)
2. God does not delight in wrongdoing/evil (Hab. 1:13).
3. Thus, we are commanded to be holy because God is holy (Lev. 19:2, 1 Pet. 1:15-16)
  - a. “God is holy, and He has made holiness the moral condition necessary to the health of His universe.”<sup>5</sup>
  - b. If he were to approve sin, he’d be denying himself

**IV. Question: *Is there any hope for sinful people to be able to stand before a holy God?***

**A.** It is important to ask yourself what kind of awe/fear you have.

1. Am I concerned about that merely because of *terror*?
  - a. That is a fear that thinks it is me vs. God for my life
  - b. A terror that would be willing to kill God to save my own skin
2. Or, am I concerned because I realize God is *wonderfully* holy?
  - a. You fear standing before him exposed in your sin.
  - b. You desire to be accepted into his foundation shaking holiness.

**B.** The answer is not going to be found in hoping God will grade on a curve.

**C.** The answer is found in Jesus’s substitutionary sacrifice that justifies sinners (Rom. 3:21-27)

**V. Application**

**A.** All of life is set apart to God (Rom. 12:1-2)

**B.** We are commanded to be holy in our conduct (Lev. 19:2, 1 Pet 1:14-18)

**C.** The church must be holy (Eph. 5:26-27)

1. It is not just us as individuals, but as the people of God.
2. Christ gave himself to present a people to himself holy and without spot or blemish.
3. To sanctify a people – that is to set them apart.

**D.** Have a humble and contrite heart (Is. 57:15)

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<sup>5</sup> A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, 106.