



The Holiness of God—Part 1
From Sermon 8.7.22

Read *Isaiah 6:1-7*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Along with recapturing the Sovereignty of God in the church, the late R.C. Sproul was burdened with the mission to recover the holiness of God. This was the reason and the title of his classic book. We would agree that the modern evangelical church is experiencing a holiness famine. This is affecting every aspect of the Christian life and mission of the Church. This study will walk us through the process of seeing God as He is—not as we have made Him. He is holy.

1. What is the root meaning the both the Hebrew and Greek words for holy? To separate—to set apart.
 - 1a. What are some common biblical and theological synonyms for holy? Purity, uncommon, sinlessness, & light. See also *1 John 1:5*
2. What is the significance of holy being the only attribute of God repeated three times? It speaks to the priority of holiness over all other attributes of God. Whatever other truths about His nature are revealed, they will all be holy—under the heading of holy. Holy Word. Holy Wrath. Holy Love. Holy Grace....
See also *Revelation 4:8*
3. What are some changes the church has made over the past 100 years or so that have helped build community and spur evangelism? Various Answers A reconsidering of the “Non-essentials”. Getting away from the pharisee approach = avoid this to avoid that. Creating new laws. Ending the elevating of tradition: dress code, limited music, formal “high church”/worship, modern language in Scripture, authentic public life that also removes non-essentials from commands.
See also *Colossians 2:20-23 & James 2:1-4*
 - 3a. What has, however, at the same time gotten lost? The elevating of God—His Holy Nature. We are guilty—corporately & privately—of bringing God down to our level. Making Him like us. Redefining holy, mercy, love, wrath with our meaning and definitions. Avoiding all reverent acts, postures, and practices out of fear of offending the visitors. See *Ezekiel 22:26-28*
4. What are a few things we've incorporated in the attempt to recapture the seriousness of holy worship? Various answers. Accurate translations of Scripture, standing for the reading of the key text, silence at Lord's Supper. Trying to honor Him in the music of godly artists/ministries. Preaching sin and repentance. Presenting the real Jesus and calling out personalities and ministries that distort truth.
5. What is the difference between that which *is holy* vs. that which *is made holy*? Only God is holy by nature and without growth or decline. He expects and demand holiness from His Creation. But, all things are fallen and corrupted by sin. Only He can elect, transform, call, and sanctify. We are declared holy, but are not in the practical sense. We will not be completely holy until we are in glory. See also *2 Corinthians 7:1*
6. Share one thing you really hope to learn in this series. Various Personal Answers.