



A Brief Definition Of God's Holiness Pt. 3

"For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy." (Leviticus 11:44-45)

Do you know that God cares a great deal about your holiness? God set apart Israel to show the world what it could be like to know God and be set apart. In Exodus 19:5-6, God invites His people to obey: "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

In Leviticus 20:26, God declares, "You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine." This is what is called the moral dimension of God's holiness, unlike the transcendental, the moral aspect of God can be emulated by humans. This is the sense in which Peter declares we "may become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4). We are called by Paul to "cleanse ourselves...bringing holiness" out of our "fear of God" (2 Cor 7:1). Equally important to note is that Peter explains that we are called to holy conduct (1 Peter. 1:15-16).

Now, this doesn't come from us being good or making holiness something we achieve through the moral perfection of oneself. No, holiness comes through Christ and His great work in us and through us by the Holy Spirit. Romans 5:1 reminds us, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul goes on later in Romans to state in 15:15-16, "But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

Today, know we are invited to this life of holiness, perfected in Christ, and helped along by the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work for the glory of God.

(This concluded our brief study of holiness. It's been a joy to look at the greatness and goodness of God.)