

Theology Proper

The Attributes of God's Goodness (part 1) – Lesson 8

⇒ **Lesson overview: Attributes of God's Goodness** – Holiness, love, truth, righteousness, Faithfulness, Mercy, Grace, goodness, longsuffering, jealousy, will, Glory

I. God is _____

A. Meaning

1. The holiness of God speaks of His _____. This root idea of "separateness" forms the basis for the concept of being set apart, of being sanctified, which is the basic meaning of "holiness".
2. The Hebrew word holy is "qadosh" which means consecrated, set apart as unto God; and designates that which is opposite of the common or profane.
3. The Greek word for holy is "hagios" which means set apart from secular, profane, evil and dedicated or consecrated unto God.
4. When speaking of God as Holy, "qadosh" and "hagios" describes what He is by His intrinsic nature; God is set apart from all others, He is Holy, and there none is like Him.
 - a. It both speaks positively of God's absolute _____ and negatively that He is without any taint of _____.
 - b. God's holiness means therefore that God is entirely separated from all that is evil and from all that defiles. He is untouched and untainted by sin, there is nothing of God that has anything sinful or unclean whatsoever.
5. "God's holiness is His inherent and absolute greatness, in which He is perfectly distinct above everything outside Himself and is absolutely morally separate from sin." (Biblical Doctrine, pg. 183)
6. How was God's holiness seen in the life of Jesus Christ?
 - a. What are verses that teach Jesus was sinless?
 - 1) **2 Corinthians 5:21** — *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
 - 2) **Hebrews 4:14-15** – *"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot * be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without _____."*
 - 3) **Hebrews 7:26** — *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, _____ from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*
 - 4) **1 Peter 1:18-19** — *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **19**; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*
 - 5) **1 Peter 2:21-22** — *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: **22**; Who did no _____, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

6) 1 Peter 3:18 — *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

7. God's Holiness is the _____ attribute of God.

- a. What are examples in the Bible of God's Holiness being seen as His number one attribute? _____
 - b. What was the place called in the temple where the priests ministered? _____ (Hebrews 9:1-6).
 - c. What was the place called in the temple where God's presence dwelt? _____
- **Exodus 26:33** — *And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.*
 - d. When Isaiah saw the throne-room of God in Isaiah 6, what did the Seraphim's cry out (Isaiah 6:1-3)? _____
 - 1) **Isaiah 6:1-3 — 1;** *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2;* *Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3;* *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*
 - 2) Some _____ times does the Prophet Isaiah speak of Jehovah as "the Holy One," indicating what feature of God was most impressed upon him.
 - 3) In Revelation 4:8, the Apostle John also sees God's throne, what does he hear the Cherubim cry out? _____
 - a) This 3-fold repetition of God's holiness, called the "**trihagion**" which speaks not only of God's character, but also speaks of the _____.
 - b) No other attribute of God is phrased this way.

B. Scripture

1. **God's name is holy** - Psalm 99:3; 111:9; Luke 1:49; Matthew 6:9
 - a. Psalm 99:3 — *Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.* (Psalm 111:9)
 - b. Mary said in Luke 1:49 — *For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.*
 - c. In the Lord's Prayer Jesus said in Matthew 6:9 — *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*
2. **God's dwelling place is holy** - Psalm 99:9; Isaiah 57:15; Psalm 11:4; 68:5.
 - a. When God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt after 400 years of bondage, He commanded them to build Him a tabernacle, or dwelling place (Exodus 25:8-9). Over 50 chapters in the O.T. are dedicated to the instructions of the building of the tabernacle. There were 2 veils in the tabernacle that separated rooms from the rest of the Tabernacle. The first veil you entered brought you into the place where the priests ministered, it was called the "_____ place" (Exodus 26:33). The second veil was

what separated the ark of the covenant from the holy place, and it was where God's presence dwelt. Notice the name God gives to this place:

- 1) **Exodus 26:34** — *And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most _____ place.*
- 2) **Hebrews 9:3** - *And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the _____ of all;*
- 3) **Leviticus 16:2** - *And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.*
- b. **Isaiah 57:15** - *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, ... (Ps. 99:9)*
- c. **Psalms 47:8** — *God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.*

3. All persons of the Trinity are holy.

- a. God the _____ - **John 17:11; Isaiah 47:4**
 - 1) **John 17:11 — 11;** *And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. _____, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*
- b. God the _____
 - 1) **Acts 3:14** — *But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;*
 - 2) **Hebrews 7:26**
- c. God the _____ Spirit
 - **Ephesians 4:30 — 30;** *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

4. God's Holiness is _____

- a. **1 Samuel 2:2** — *There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.*
- b. **Revelation 15:4** — *Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.*

C. What Are the Results of God's Holiness

1. If God elevates His holiness as His preeminent attribute, then that is what God most wants us to _____ Him by.
2. To come into the presence of God we must be cleansed from all sin.
 - a. **Habakkuk 1:13** — *Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?*
 - b. The high priest could not enter into the Holy of Holies without making offering for all his sins (Heb.9:6-10).
 - c. _____ - *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
 - d. _____ - *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*
 - e. _____ - *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped,*

and all the world may become guilty before God. **20**; Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

- f. _____ - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

3. God's Holiness declares our need to live a Holy _____.

a. Does God really expect me to live a "holy" life?

1) In the O.T.

- **Leviticus 19:2** – "Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy." (Leviticus 11:44-45)

2) In the New Testament

- a) _____ — But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; **16**; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
- b) **Ephesians 1:4** — According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
- c) **1 Thessalonians 4:7** — For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

D. How can I live a holy life?

1. Through salvation

- a. What cleanses us from all sin according to I John 1:7? _____

1) 1 John 1:7 — But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2) Revelation 1:5 — And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

- b. How far has he removed, or separated our sin from us according to Psalm 103:12? _____

- **Psalm 103:12** — As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

- c. The New Testament word for "holy" comes from the Greek word "hagios". It is used 229 times in the N.T. 161 times it is translated as "holy" in our English Bible. The word Hagios is also translated as _____ 61 times in the NT.

1) Ephesians 1:1 – "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the **saints** (Hagios") which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:"

2) Christians are called the "Hagios", the holy ones or saints of God. As such God calls us, the "hagios" to live lives that represent who we are in Christ, a life that is lived in holy and separated from the sinful things of this world.

2. Through God's _____

- a. _____ - "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

- b. _____ - *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*
- c. Ephesians 5:26-27
- 3. Through _____ of our sin to God
 - _____ - *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
- 4. Through denying ungodliness
 - a. **2 Corinthians 6:17a** - *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord..."*

II.

A. Scripture

1. _____ *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*
2. _____ *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*
 - a. There is no article before "love" (the verse does not say, God is the love) and therefore indicates that this is the very nature of God. God is love.
 - b. Here the Apostle John elevates love as one of God's supreme attributes. God is the essence of love. God does not just love, rather God is love. God is the essence of love. If you want to know what love looks like you simply need to look at God and you will see the image of love.
 - c. Christianity is really the only religion that sets forth the Supreme Being as _____. The gods of the heathen are angry, hateful beings, and are in constant need of appeasing.
 - d. **One error that some in false religious groups make**, such as Christian Science, declares love is _____. Some today will say that "love" is their god. The Bible teaches God is love, but it does not say love is God. the Greek construction in these passages do not allow that. Gods' essence is love; and wherever there is true love that has flowed out from God, but God is more than love, God is also holy, righteous, just, He can be wrathful and angry, etc.
 - e. It is the nature of God to love. To define or describe the love of God (as some theologians say is difficult if not impossible), Ephesians 3:19 says, **"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge..."**
 - f. Though we cannot fully understand God's love, we can know His love by the expressions of His love toward us; immediately after telling us God is love, John shows the expression of that love in v.9-10:
 - 1) **1 John 4:9-10** — *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10; Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
 - g. In God's Word we see God choosing to love mankind and seek to bless them physically and spiritually to the point of making personal sacrifice that is beyond human understanding.

B. God's attribute of love is characterized by the following:

1. It is _____
 - a. God's love is under no compulsion and waits for no response from its object.

- 1) _____ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- 2) **Deut. 7:7** – “The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, **because ye were more in number than any people**; for ye were the fewest of all people:”

2. It is _____

- a. **Hosea 14:4** – “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them _____ for mine anger is turned away from him.”
- b. God’s love does not arise from any need in God; it is not selfish in its motivation.

3. It is _____

- a. God’s love does not condone sin or withhold punishment in the name of sentiment or emotion; it maintains God’s standards of purity, and in so doing seeks the best for its object.
- b. On the cross we see the beauty of God’s love poured out; but also on the cross-God’s Holiness was exalted.

4. It is _____

- a. **Jeremiah 31:3** – “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”
- b. God’s love is not fickle but rather eternally self-giving.

C. Who does God love?

1. He loves _____

- **John 17:24** — Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: **for thou lovedst _____ before the foundation of the world.**

2. God loves those who _____ **Jesus Christ.**

- a. **John 16:27** — For the Father himself loveth _____, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.
- b. **John 14:21-23** — He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. **22**; Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? **23**; Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

3. God loves _____.

- a. **Mark 10:21** — Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.
- b. **Galatians 2:20** — I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (John 17:23, Romans 9:13)

4. God loves the _____

- a. **Mark 10:21** — Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to

the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

- b. Romans 5:8** — *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (John 3:16)*

III.

A. Explanation:

1. God's being, words, and works all conform perfectly to His inherent truth.
2. Truth means, "agreement to that which is represented" and includes the ideas of veracity, faithfulness, and consistency. To say that God is true is to say, in the most comprehensive sense, that He is consistent with _____, that He is all that He should be, that He has revealed Himself as He really is, and that He and His revelation are completely reliable.

B. The true-ness of God has to do with His essence, His words, and His works.

1. In His _____

- a. God is true; in all that He is, He conforms perfectly to all that God ought to be.
- b. _____ *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
- c. **Isaiah 65:16** — *That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of _____; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes.*
- d. **John 1:17** — *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*
- e. **The contrast to this is _____ gods.**
 - 1) _____ *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true _____, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*
 - 2) Isaiah 44:6,8; 45:5,6,21

2. In His _____

- a. God is true; all that He reveals concerning Himself, every promise He makes, every word which proceeds from Him, all conforms perfectly with reality.
- b. **Psalms 119:160** — *Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. (John 17:17, Eph.1:13).*
- c. **God cannot _____**
 - 1) **Titus 1:2** — *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; (Heb.6:18)*
 - 2) **Romans 3:4** — *God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...*
- d. The contrast
 - 1) False prophets — Ezekiel 13:6-8
 - 2) Satan — **John 8:44** — *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*
- e. We are to be those who declare the Word of the Lord

- **2 Timothy 2:15** — *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

3. God is true in His _____.

a. Psalm 33:4 — *For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.*

b. All truth comes from God, and in His works, truth is perfectly manifested.

C. Conclusion

1. To know the truth, you must know _____.

2. To reject God is to go into _____.

a. Romans 1:21–22 - *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22; Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

b. Isaiah 8:19–20 — *And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 20; To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

- **Weekly Assignments**

- Study for test over lesson 8
- Read: “Biblical Doctrine” (MacArthur/Mayhue) pages 218-225