

# ***"TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM"***

## **1. Attributes of God: His Holiness**

The difficulty in starting a study like this is that there is no one attribute of God that is more important than another. There is no logical starting point. A case can be made for any of His attributes. But I believe that the following verse in Proverbs makes a good case for selecting God's Holiness first. This verse also confirms that the goals of this study are worth pursuing.

***"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."***

**(NKJV, Proverbs 9:10)**

This verse implies that our understanding... our ability to see a bit of God's plan, and to take the wisdom we have gained and apply it to our lives is directly related to our knowledge of the Holy One. We can't look at situations from a human perspective. We need to try, as best as is possible for our imperfect finite minds can, see things from a Heavenly perspective...God's perspective.

*(NKJV, Isa 55:8-9) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. [9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."*

### **What is Holiness?**

Holiness is the purity of moral excellence. God's Holiness is perfect, eternal, uncreated, unchanging, and infinite. It is far beyond our ability to measure. There are 100's of verses that refer to the Holiness of God.

*(NKJV, Psa 99:9), "Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy."*

*(NKJV, Luk 1:49), "For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name."*

His Holiness is not merely an "attribute" but the essence of who He is.

*(NKJV, Mat 19:17), "So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God." (Note: NIV omits "that is, God")*

Without God, humanity would have no concept of holiness, for God is unique in His holiness. Of every thing or person, only God is holy.

**Why should we be concerned about God's Holiness?**

*(NKJV, Mat 5:8), "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."*

Only the holy, will be with the Lord.

**Are we expected to be holy?**

*(NKJV, 1Pe 1:15-16), "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, [16] because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.' "*

We are indeed expected to be holy.

**How can we possibly attain a level of holiness to "see God"?**

*(NKJV, 1Co 6:11), "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."*

Not by our own power, but by the power of God's Holy Spirit and power of the shed blood of Jesus. When we accept Jesus as our savior, we are "declared" holy by God. He sees us as holy because of Jesus' sacrifice.

We are:

- ...saved from the penalty of sin in the past.
- ...saved from the power of sin in the present.
- ...saved from the presence of sin in the future.

**Group Discussion**

- How did the Lord reveal His holiness to you this last week, either through the study of His Word or through the circumstances of your life?
  
- Is being tempted a sin?
  
- Does temptation affect our holiness?