
Meetings with God

The Holiness of God

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Today: *This is the First in a Series of Four Teaching Messages on Meetings with God: Holiness, Power, Will, Goodness. What is God really like?*

Theology is the study of the nature of God... what is true about God.

- The word *theology* has kind of a “dusty” feel
- The word *holiness* has a daunting feel to it; but most-used word in Bible to describe God
 - Holiness is perfect, complete, entire, flawless
 - Nothing lacking, nothing can be added
 - Nothing that if removed would make Him better

Question — When Moses was going to go back to the children of Israel to lead them out of captivity, his question was, *“The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?”*

- **Exodus 3:13-15**

¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. ¹⁵ And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

ANSWER — *“God answered I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”*

I AM — always entirely always Myself, never anything else; utterly absolutely

Our perception of a fractured God

- In children’s Sunday School “down in the basement” — Jesus loves me
- In “big church” sign “God is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silent”
- Choir in robes, and pipe organ with Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms
- Pastor using “preacher voice”
- Third person of the Trinity — Who?

Application — *Perceiving God in pieces can create a view of Him as undependable; like having a meeting with God, but not sure who is going to answer the phone.*

At this point in the service Dr. Rutland showed a video illustrating what it might be like making a phone call to a God who wore "many hats" in answering the phone.

**The Holiness of God makes Him Dependable,
not Predictable.**

FACT – His dependability makes me know the Promises of God are Yes and Amen, and that His blood will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God IS love — love is not what he DOES!

**God does not love you because of who you are —
But because of the invariable character of Who He is!**

***You cannot make Him love you any Less
OR***

***You cannot DO ANYTHING to make Him love you any MORE
Your Behavior Does Not Alter God***

- **Leviticus 19:2**
You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy.

You shall be holy because the Lord your God is holy

- Is it a command or a promise? — YES!
- What I DO in You is ME
- **Zechariah 4:6**
Not by might nor by power but by My Spirit...

At this point in the service Dr. Rutland showed a video illustrating what it might be like if God was a Cosmic Referee.

**Satan is the accuser of the brethren.
The Holy Spirit is the empowerment of changed life and service.**

He no longer writes the law on tablets of stone, but writes the law on the heart.

- **Jeremiah 31:33**
³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
 - In your innermost being, the law changes you from the inside out.
 - What happens in your heart will transform what happens with your hands.

We want to try and make it happen ourselves. The real work extends from who He is.

If you can Sanctify yourself — the Law Works

We have been sanctified — Justified

We are being sanctified — Spiritual Maturity

We will ultimately be sanctified — Glorified— transformed into likeness of Christ

John Wesley called it the Baptism of Love.

We say that everything we have tried has failed.

In the story of *Jason and the Argonauts*, when ships passed the Island of the Sirens, they were drawn willingly to be the island by the singing of the Sirens to be wrecked on the rocky shore. When Odysseus sailed by, he had his sailors tied to the mast and, wax in their ears, and scream. That is like sin today, when we know something is sin, want do it anyway, and try to obey the law and resist by grim determination.

When Jason and his Argonauts passed this island, they sat at the feet of his magic lute player. When he played, they couldn't hear anything else but that sweet song. Even the Sirens turned to stone.

When we are lured by sin, do we put our shoulders to the grindstone... doomed to failure; or do we hear the sweet song, loved by a greater love? Holiness is not a grim determination to obey the law.

Holiness is being enraptured by the beauty of Christ, being drawn by His song of Love.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever felt like God is "fractured" into various parts? How?
2. How has that or does that affect your relationship with God?
3. Have you ever thought you could DO anything to make God love you more?
4. React to, "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am Holy."
5. In sailing by the Island of the Sirens, which ship do you identify with?