

The Holiness of God

God is holy. Exodus 15:11, "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

The Definition of Holiness

Holiness of God is His **majestic transcendence** and **moral purity**. Psalm 99 bears out God's *majestic transcendence* by the definition that He is "high above," His name is "great and terrible" [awesome], which causes us to "worship at His footstool" and to "exalt" God "for the LORD our God is holy." Isaiah (6:1-5) bears out God's moral purity by the contrast of the prophet's moral impurity. Isaiah confesses that he is "undone" [cut off, destroyed!], he is "a man of unclean lips" dwelling "in the midst of a people of unclean lips." God is not like Isaiah! He is different. He is distinct. He is separate. He is holy. He is majestic in transcendence and He morally pure and perfect.

[Show a photo of diamond amongst the rocks]



Ask: *Is there any item that doesn't seem to belong with the other items?* [the gem]
Why doesn't it belong with the other items? [It's clean and sparkles, is beautiful.]

God's holiness is something like the gem. God is majestic, perfect in every way. He is "pure," perfectly clear, without any dirt. Because God is holy, He is completely separate from any sin (the dirty items).

The Display of Holiness

The display of God's holiness is seen in the testimony of Isaiah. The Lord sits upon a majestic throne, "high and lifted up." The hem, the train, of His royal robe fills the entire temple. Above His majestic throne, Seraphs hover, each one has six wings. Two wings cover their faces. Two others cover their feet. The remaining two wings they use to fly. These magnificent angels cry out to one another: "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: The whole earth is full of His glory." Isaiah realized that his sin

separated him from a holy God. God is holy. He is like nothing else. He is perfect and is separate from sin.

The Demand of Holiness

Because God is holy, we are to respond to Him in the right way.

Q: *For example, pretend that this gem was a real diamond and was worth lots and lots and lots of money. Would you toss it in a pile of rocks out in your backyard? Why not?*

Q: *Because God is holy, and is much, much, much more special than any diamond, how should we act toward Him? [Allow the children to respond, and/or lead them in thinking about the following questions.] Should you treat the Bible—God’s Holy Word—as if it is just another book, or toss it around and play with it? Should you act silly or goofy in church during the worship service?*

Should you act as if your sin is no big deal? Because God is holy, we should treat Him and His Word with great respect and honor. He deserves our worship. We should be in “awe” of Him more than anything else. Because God is holy, we should tremble before Him and have a healthy kind of fear of Him: He is great, and we are small and weak. Because God is holy, He will not tolerate our sin. We must have our sin forgiven through trusting in Jesus in order to be accepted by a holy God.

The Deliverance unto Holiness

How can you be delivered from sin? How can you be cleansed from the dirt of your life? How can you become pure from evil thoughts? How can you become holy so that you can be accepted by a holy God? There is good news! There is deliverance from sin! There is deliverance unto holiness!

Isaiah (6:6-7) gives us a hint. “Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.”

There is good news! Jesus Christ shed His precious blood through death on the cross of Calvary. “[T]he blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” so says John. Go to Jesus! Fly to Jesus! Cling to Him. Ask Him to cleanse you so you can be pure, so you can be holy and be accepted by the holy God!