



❖ Introduction

Joe Theismann

Quarterback Joe Theismann, allegedly explaining to his soon-to-be-ex second wife why he had an affair: "God wants Joe Theismann to be happy."

If you ask the average Christian what it means to be holy, most could not answer. True holiness is a hard concept to fully grasp, but it is an essential part of the Christian life. Can someone claim to belong to Christ and never pursue holiness? Both the Old and New Testaments put a high priority on holiness; therefore we should take a closer look at holiness and seek to understand this crucial part of the Christian life.

What is holiness?

I stated earlier that most Christians would not be able to define holiness. In a sense, this is rightly so. The holiness of God is so far beyond our comprehension that we struggle to grasp it. If we could grasp a complete image of an infinite God with our finite mind, then we could fully grasp His holiness.

Sin does not affect God, but the holiness of God will always consume sin. We are sinful by nature. There will be a day when we will be made pure and can see God face to face, but until then we pursue holiness and draw closer to God.
– Eddie Snipes

❖ UNDERSTANDING THE HOLINESS OF GOD

- When we look at several passages of scripture related to the holiness of God, we see very clearly the emphasis of **UNIQUENESS**.

Exodus 15:11

"Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?"

1 Samuel 2:2

"There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

Psalms 77:13

Your way, O God, is holy; What god is great like our God?"

Isaiah 40:25

"To whom then will you liken Me That I should be his equal?" says the Holy One.

In simple terms (if not simplistic), holiness is to be set apart. God is set apart from everything. He is unique and above His creation. Nothing measures up to God and nothing can even be compared to God. The finite human mind can't grasp God because there is nothing in creation that can be compared to Him. Symbolism is used to paint a picture in the mind's eye. The Bible often points to something that can be seen as a symbol for us to get a small glimpse of the things that can't be accurately explained.

The holiness of God is the highest honor expressed in the scripture. In scripture, what is repeated is done so to stress importance. – Eddie Snipes

- To speak of God being holy is to speak of God as being set apart and distinct from all existence. In fact, there is no point of reference, nothing in all existence that can rightfully be considered for comparison with **GOD**.

❖ LIVING IN RESPONSE TO THE HOLINESS OF GOD

- **God has separated us to Himself.** We have been set apart as His people, His possession, to live for His purposes **EXCLUSIVELY!**

1 Peter 2:9-11

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

- God expects His people to live in keeping with our holy position in Christ (v. 11), as people who are uniquely set apart exclusively for His **PURPOSES**.

What does it take to live out our holy position in Christ?

Colossians 3:1-5 (NAU)

If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek** the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

This passage describes the believers new, set-apart position in Christ, what that should mean in the practical transformation of the believer and how that is achieved.

Formerly dead Don't set mind on earthly things sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness	Raised with Christ Seek things above Set minds on things above Life hidden with Christ in God Christ your life
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- Biblical holiness is far more than a issue of morality. It is an issue of the **HEAD**, the **HEART**, and **HANDS**.
 - Biblical holiness is a complete reorientation of life, turning from every other thought, idea, desire, value, goal and pursuit so that nothing else remains but **GOD**.
 - To live in response to the holiness of God is to pursue His uniqueness. It involves allowing Him to move us from our humanistic thinking, values, and **WAYS**
 - We as believers should be in the continual **PROCESS** of growing to think as God thinks, value what God values, and act according to God's ways.
 - Because God is infinitely unique, I will have to make a conscious effort to live according to His character.
- Understanding and living out the holiness of God will result in unique:
 - **THINKING**
 - We don't realize how mentally handicapped we all are apart from Christ!

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are **folly** to him, and he is **not able to understand** them because they are spiritually discerned.

Titus 3:3 (NAS)

For we also once were **foolish** ourselves

Philippians 3:19 (ESV)

Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with **minds set on earthly things**.

- I will naturally think in keeping with my **HUMAN** character. I will naturally think in a way that makes sense from a human point of view. I will naturally do things the way every human does things.
- To live in response to the holiness of God, the believer must be in a continual state of transformation in **THINKING**.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Romans 12:2 (NAU)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .

2 Corinthians 10:5 (AMP)

[Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One),

(MSG)

The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way—never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.

- What is "holy thinking?" Thinking that honors and reflects the **GLORY** of the character of God.
- When I am transformed by the holiness of God, I will think differently than most people because God thinks differently.

Understanding and living out the holiness of God will result in unique:

○ **VALUES**

Ephesians 2:3 (NAS)

Among them we too all **formerly** lived in the lusts of our flesh, **indulging the desires** of the flesh and **of the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Philippians 3:19 (ESV)

Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with **minds set on earthly things**.

seek the things that are above . . . **Set your minds** on things that are above

- To live in response to the holiness of God is to value the things God **VALUES**.

What does God value? The display and worship of His **GLORY**.

_____When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

_____The value in view here is the glory of Christ, displayed in the transformation of the believer into His likeness.

- When I am transformed by the holiness of God, I will value **CHRISTLIKENESS** above and even at the exclusion of all else.
- When I am transformed by the holiness of God, I will value different things and I will have different **DESIRES** than most people because God's values are different, God's desires are different than man's.

Understanding and living out the holiness of God will result in unique:

○ **ACTIONS**

. . . beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. (1 Peter 1:11)

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- When I am transformed by the holiness of God, I will act differently than most people because God's ways are different than man's.
- Living out God's holiness means I must consciously and carefully purge my life from anything that is contrary to the character and **WAYS** of God.

Biblical holiness is a complete reorientation of life, turning from every other thought, idea, desire, value, goal and pursuit so that **NOTHING** else remains but God.

We as believers should be in the continual process of growing to **THINK** as God thinks, **VALUE** what God values, and **ACT** according to God's ways.