



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“Character of God” Series Lesson 16 – December 4, 2016

Communicable Attribute of Holiness

I. **Lesson Starters:**

Last lesson we looked at the Communicable attribute of Mercy, Grace and Patience. *God’s mercy is God’s compassion or forbearance shown towards those in misery or distress. God’s grace is God’s goodness toward those who deserve only punishment. God’s patience is God’s goodness in withholding punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.*

Today we will continue our review of Communicable Attribute of Holiness.

II. **Attribute of Holiness**

God’s holiness means that he is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

- Moral quality, separation from sin or evil
- Devotion to God’s own honor and glory

Psalm 24:3

3 Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

- The place where God himself dwells was itself holy

Psalm 103:8

¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

- Sabbath day was set apart from ordinary activities of the world and dedicated to God’s service

Exodus 29:44-46

44 “So I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar and will consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests. ⁴⁵ Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. ⁴⁶ They will know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

- Tabernacle and altar were “to be Holy”, the physical place or presence of God is Holy
- Aaron and his sons, were to be “made Holy” for the purpose of serving God
- Just as Aaron and his sons, we are saved and set apart with the expectation of growing in Holiness to serve our God

III. **God Himself is the Most Holy One**

- “Holy One of Israel” (Psalm 71:22; 78:41; 89:18; Isa 1:4; 5:19)
- Seraphim’s around God’s Throne cry “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory”
- “The Lord our God is holy!” (Psalm 99:9)

IV. **God’s Holiness Provides the Pattern for his People to Imitate**

Leviticus 19:2

2 The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

1 Peter 1:14-16

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.

Exodus 19:4-6

4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

- God’s expectation for his saved children is that we will attempt to follow his pattern and actions of holiness
- Reference to “Holy Nation” show a separation from evil and sin of the world and a devotion to God through obeying and serving

Hebrews 12:14

10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. ¹² Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. ¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

- Christians are to “strive” for the holiness
- God’s discipline is provided so that “we may share in his holiness”

2 Corinthians 7:1

1 Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence(fear) for God.

- Separate ourselves from the dominating influence that comes from close association of unbelievers
- Encourages us in our service to God ability to progress through the Holy Spirit in our lives
- Not only individuals, but the church itself is expected to grow in holiness

Zechariah prophecies a day when everything on earth will be “holy to the Lord”:

- Zechariah 14:20-21
- Everything will be separated from evil, purified from sin and devoted to the service of God in true moral purity

V. Group Questions:

1. Privately in your circles, take a few minutes and list for yourself activities or relationships that are currently hindering your growth in holiness? To help, consider if they are making it difficult to be separated from sin or preventing you from being devoted to seeking God’s honor?
2. Discuss the definition provided for “holiness” and its two main components? Why are both parts required?
3. In Exodus 19:4, discuss the 2 things that God lists as prerequisites of being “kingdom of priests” and a “holy nation”?
4. Discuss why we usually do not “share in God’s holiness” without God’s discipline?
5. Is it possible to “perfect our holiness” as 2 Corinthians 7 says without reverence or fear of the Lord? Discuss your reasoning as to why?