

TOWARD A PASSION FOR HOLINESS

God's Holiness Defined, Distorted, and Accurately Reflected

Session # 1—Defining God's Holiness

1) What is Holiness?

a) Old Testament

- i) There is one primary Hebrew word that is translated “holy,” “holiness,” etc.
- ii) The following is a breakdown of the approximately 830 uses this word in its various forms.

<u>Hebrew word</u>	<u>English translation</u>	<u>Strong's #</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>emphasized in</u>
miqqedah	holy place, sanctuary	4720	75	Ezekiel
qadosh	sacred, holy	6918	115	Isaiah
qaddish	holy	6922	13	Daniel—Aramaic
qadash	to be set apart	6942	172	general use
qodesh	apartness, sacredness	6944	456	Leviticus, Exodus, Numbers, Psalms

b) New Testament

- i) The New Testament, like the Old, bases the word “holy” or “holiness” on one primary Greek word. The following chart displays the approximately 275 various uses of that Greek word.

<u>Greek word</u>	<u>English trans.</u>	<u>Strong's #</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>emphasized in</u>
hagiadzo	consecrate, sanctify	37	28	Hebrews
hagiasmos	consecration, sanctification	38	10	1 st & 2 nd Thess.
hagios	holy, sacred	40	233	Acts, Rev., Rom., Luke
hagiotēs	holiness	41	1	
hagiosune	holiness	42	3	

c) A working definition of holiness

- i) Holiness is that quality of essence, attitude, action, affection, and allegiance that is set apart for God so that one is other than (distinct from) the world. In a word, it could be defined as “otherness.”

2) What is **unholiness**?

a) koinos [# 2839 (noun), 2840 (verb)] “common, ordinary, mutual”

- i) Negative light—Matthew 15:11, 18, 20; Mark 7:2, 15, 18, 20, 23; Acts 10:14, 15, 28; 11:8, 9; 21:28; Romans 14:14; Hebrews 9:13; 10:29; Revelation 21:27
- ii) Positive light—Acts 2:44; 4:32; Titus 1:4; Jude 1:3

b) anosios [# 462] “those who reject religious obligations, profane”—1st Timothy 1:9; 2nd Timothy 3:2

c) bebelos [# 952] “open and accessible to all, desecrated”—1st Timothy 1:9; 4:7; 6:20; 2nd Timothy 2:16; Hebrews 12:16

- d) A working definition of unholiness
 - i) Unholiness is that quality of essence, attitude, action, affection, and allegiance that is *not* set apart for God so that one is *not* other than (distinct from) the world. In a word, it could be defined as “sameness.”
- 3) Why is it so important for the believer today to study holiness?
 - a) God’s primary attribute—Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; 15:4
 - b) The believer’s primary attribute—called “saints” nearly 70 times in Bible (8—O.T./ 60—N.T.) Romans, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians all are addressed the “saints.” It denotes what believers are in the very essence of their being.
 - c) The essence of God’s primary command—Leviticus 11:44; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 1st Peter 1:15, 16; Hebrews 12:14
 - i) All commands found in the Word of God fall under this command. It is virtually synonymous with loving God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength. A person who is holy will love God and a person who loves God will be holy. All of the commands found in the Word of God point us toward “otherness.”

Session # 2—Distorting God’s Holiness

Intro.: There are many different ideas as to what holiness or otherness entails. Too often the individual with the idea has used his or her background as the standard concept. Individuals seem to either accept this training or react against it, but either way it is the standard.

- 1) Avoiding certain activities, places, or people
 - a) Examples of this thinking
 - i) “If I don’t _____ I will be holy.”
(1) Listen to rock music, watch bad movies, read bad books, smoke, drink alcohol, etc.
 - ii) “If I don’t go to _____ I will be holy.”
 - iii) “If I don’t hang out with _____, I will be holy.”
 - b) Based on a misinterpretation of passages such as:
 - i) Avoid every appearance of evil—1st Thessalonians 5:22
(1) Read the context!
- 2) Practicing certain habits
 - a) Examples of this thinking
 - i) “If I read my Bible every day, I will be holy.”
 - ii) “If I pray every day, I will be holy.”
 - iii) “If I go to church every time the doors are open, I will be holy.”
 - iv) “If I memorize Bible verses, I will be holy.”
 - b) Based on a misinterpretation of passages such as:
 - i) Bible reading—Job 23:12
(1) Note the concept of treasuring
 - ii) Prayer—1st Thessalonians 5:17
(1) Note the context of rejoice, prayer, giving thanks
 - iii) Church attendance—Acts 2:42
(1) Note the rest of the things they devoted themselves to

