

“Holy Ground” - God’s Introduction to Man

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Introduction: The essence of Christianity is coming to know God.

- A. Jesus wanted all men to find eternal life. **(Jn 17:3-4)**
 - 1. This life can only come when men know God and His glory. **(Jn 14:6-7)**
 - 2. The basis of all that we do comes from this knowledge.
 - 3. Look at how Jesus instructed the apostles! **(Jn 17:6-8)**
- B. God wants us to know Him so that we might have fellowship with Him.
 - 1. Consider how you might begin a relationship with another. What must you learn?
 - 2. God wants us to know what He is like so that we might change! God has let us know that He cannot change! **(Mal 3:6; James 1:17; Heb 13:8)**
 - 3. Many of the moral and doctrinal compromises men make has its root in a lack of knowledge of God.
 - 4. Those who know God will become men of conviction and live distinct lives from the world.

I. God’s personal introduction to Moses

- A. God first wants Moses to know that He is holy. **(Ex 3:1-5)**
 - 1. God tells Him to take off his shoes. Holiness demands a special approach.
 - 2. There is a paradox to having a relationship with a holy God just as a fire can be burning in a bush without it being consumed!
- B. What does it mean for God to be holy?
 - 1. Consider the perfect holiness of God in three verses.
(1 Sam 2:2; Isa 40:25; Hosea 11:9)
 - 2. “In the Old Testament, the verb holy in the Hebrew is “quodesh”, meaning “to consecrate, to sanctify, to prepare, to dedicate, to be separate.” The noun holiness means “apartness, sacredness, separateness.””
 - 3. “In the New Testament, the words holy, holiness, sanctify, and sanctification all come from the same Greek word “hagious,” which means “sacred, (physically) pure, morally blameless, consecrated, innocent, modest, perfect, clean, pure.””
- C. God appealed to His holiness to teach His people how to have a relationship with Him. **(Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:26)**
 - 1. Fire represents the purity and Holiness of God and also the dread brought on the unholy one who is brought into his presence.
 - 2. As God delivered His holy word on Mt. Sinai there was fire, lightning and a display of God’s power. God wanted His people to see this and tremble.
(Heb 12:18-21, 29)
 - 3. God wants us to show us how to have a relationship with Him and live!

II. How God’s holiness changes us

- A. We will have a dread of facing a Holy God unprepared.
 - 1. Fear can be a great tool to open a heart. **(Deut 5:23-24, 28-29)**

2. The challenge for the people would be to remember that day and also to instill this fear of God in their children.
 3. God's holiness should humble a man so that he might open his heart to change.
- B. We will value the love and mercy of God as a great treasure.
1. Men may ridicule us but God considers us a treasure. **(Deut 7:6-9; 1 Pt 2:9)**
 2. How can a holy God love us so? He does!
 3. With God's love and forgiveness I see God's holiness as that which I desire rather than that which I dread. **(1 Jn 3:1-3)**
- C. We will find God to be our faithful rock in looking after His people. **(1 Sam 2:1-9)**
1. We find the humility that comes from knowing God to be the source of His power working in our lives. **(1 Pt 5:5)**
 2. We can smile at our enemies!
 3. We know God's promises to be true! He will never forsake us.

III. God's people will be identified by their respect of a holy God

- A. They will consider God's word as holy and thus perfect.
1. Anything that comes from God is holy. The scriptures are not a mere product of men influenced by past cultures. **(Rom 1:2; 2 Tim 3:15; 1 Thess 2:13)**
 2. We simply stay within what is revealed. When the scriptures are silent we will also be silent. The holiness of God demands this!
 3. Consider the example of Nadab and Abihu. Moses and Aaron knew God and the consequence of going beyond God's instructions. **(Lev 10:1-3)**
- B. They will honestly fight sin and seek God's forgiveness. **(1 Jn 1:5-9)**
1. They want personal repentance and the teaching that brings it!
 2. They recognize their own struggles and make no excuses.
 3. Their conscience will be tender and they will be thankful! **(Acts 24:15-16)**
- C. They will be characterized by a love for the truth.
1. New Testament Christians would have been startled that anyone would ever question the need to seek the truth about all things God revealed.
 2. Consider how the Apostle John described Christians in **2 Jn 1-4**.
 - a. "all those who have known the truth" **(1:1)**
 - b. "the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever" **(1:2)**
 - c. "I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father" **(1:4)**
 3. Later John wrote that we need to know if "we are of the truth." **(1 Jn 3:18-19)**
 4. There are no "small" issues when it comes to holiness. **(Deut 14:2-3; 26:13-14)**
- D. In seeking holiness they will protect their hearts. **(Heb 12:15-16)**
1. Bitterness, grudges, covetousness will be fought!
 2. Mercy, justice, longsuffering and thankfulness will be sought.

Conclusion: Let us seek to better know and imitate our God!