

The Curious Case of Holiness

Holiness = Different & Set Apart

A Different Type of God:

	All other gods	God
Reason	Create out of necessity and lust	Creates out of love and glory
Motivation	Force as leverage	Love as leverage
Practices	Human sacrifice	Self -sacrifice
Why?	Explain how we got here	Explains why we are here

Is my God holy? [] Yes [] No

Therefore...Leviticus 20:7-8

A Different Type of Marriage:

	godless	Godly
Reason	Makes me happy	Makes me holy
Motivation	I'll go if you go	I'll go even if you don't go
Practices	Tears down	Builds up
Why?	Because my spouse is good to me	Because God is good to me

Is my marriage holy? [] Yes [] No

Three Reasons For Our Set Apart Life:

- (1) **Who** he is
- (2) **What** he's done
- (3) **Whose** we are

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 30, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before?

MY STORY

1. This weekend Christopher contrasted a holy marriage with what's more status quo for today. Can you think of any points that were in alignment with or counter to what you saw in your parents, family members or guardians while growing up? If so, explain.

2. Both last weekend and this weekend we learned the word "holy" means to be "set apart." Yet, for many of us "holy" has meant something totally different. How do you think most people would define the word "holy"?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Arguably one of the hardest areas to be holy is in marriage. Some couples get lazy and stop giving their best to their spouse. Others find it hard to move toward a holy marriage with someone who's hurt them. Whatever the reason, God has provided examples of holiness that we can follow in marriage. How could following or not following the examples below impact being set apart in marriage?

1 Peter 3:8-9 *New International Version (NIV)*

Suffering for Doing Good

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Ephesians 4:2 *New International Version (NIV)*

² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 5:21 *New International Version (NIV)*

Instructions for Christian Households

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Can you think of any reasons why people justify not putting the above verses into practice?

2. If holiness in marriage wasn't hard enough, God has called us to be set apart in several other potentially challenging relationships. As much as we might not want to follow God's instruction, it seems he has a greater purpose for our holiness in those relationships. What reasons are given in the verses below that could help motivate us to holiness even in our most challenging relationships?

Ephesians 6:1-4 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—³ "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Romans 13:1-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

Submission to Governing Authorities

¹ Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

Luke 6:32-36 *New International Version (NIV)*

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Can you think of any relationships or situations where it would be hard for you to apply these verses?

3. In his message, Christopher compared God (Yahweh) to other gods we hear of in creation stories and reminded us that being set apart is our response to God's holiness. How do the following verses reaffirm Christopher's statement that our God's holiness makes him different from other gods, and help us have confidence we're following the right God?

Psalms 86:8-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.
⁹ All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.
¹⁰ For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.

Psalms 99:1-3 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹ The LORD reigns,
let the nations tremble;
he sits enthroned between the cherubim,
let the earth shake.
² Great is the LORD in Zion;
he is exalted over all the nations.
³ Let them praise your great and awesome name—
he is holy.

Isaiah 40:25-31 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁵ "To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:

Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.
²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob?
Why do you say, Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God"?
²⁸ Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
³¹ but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Which of the verses above is most meaningful to you and why?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Based on this week's teaching or homework, is there a relationship or area of your life you'd like to be more set apart in?

2. Optional take-home assignment: Ask the following questions to help improve connection and communication in marriage, friendships or with family.

- What am I doing right?
- What could I be doing more of?
- How can I love you better?

Praise/Prayer Requests:

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