

# Holiness

## *“Holiness and Implanted Righteousness”*

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### 1. June teaching outline:

- a. **The Holy Otherness of God.** Creator and Creation.
- b. **Holiness and Imputed Righteousness:** God credits us with Christ's righteousness, whereby we are justified. Imputed righteousness changes your person (*dead in sin to alive in Christ*) and place (*darkness into his marvelous light*).
- c. **Holiness and Implanted Righteousness:** God implants a desire to be righteous.
- d. **Holiness and Identifiable/Practical Righteousness** whereby the Holy Spirit works in us to do good works that are a visible witness to the Church and the world.

**2. Attributes of God #22: Holiness.** *“All the attributes of God come together and blend into holiness. Holiness, for that reason, has been called ‘an attribute of attributes’, that which brings unity to all the attributes of God.”* R.A. Finlayson, The New Bible Dictionary.

**3. “Mysterium tremendum et fascinans”:** “The Holy”. Rudolph Otto, 1917

- a. Wholly Other, wholly Holy; experienced as “an astonishment that strikes us dumb.”  
✓ *“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”* Isaiah 6:3.
- b. Awe, dread, majesty, overpowering might, the necessity for a cover, grace.  
✓ *“Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth ...”* 1 Chr 16:30
- c. Attractiveness in spite of fear, mercy, grace, an irresistible drawing to the Holy  
✓ *“One thing I desire ... to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD ...”* Psalm 27:4

**4. Holiness is God’s character and moral perfection** as compared to my moral and character imperfections; his total consistency v. my profound inconsistency; His purity v. my profanity; His wholeness v. my brokenness.

- a. “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Matthew 5:48.
- b. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment.<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matt 22:36

**5. Imputed righteousness solves my moral alienation; it changes my person and place.**

- a. **Imputed righteousness.** “Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.<sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness ...” Romans 4:4-5  
  
✓ John Piper: *“Paul interprets (the word ‘counted’ in Romans 4) in a business context where wages are credited to someone’s account. It can happen in two ways: if you work, your wages are credited to your account according to debt; if you don’t work, but still get “wages” credited to your account, it is according to grace.”*
- b. **Imputed sin.** “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21. “All we like sheep have gone astray; ... everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6

## 6. Implanted Righteousness

- a. Imputed righteousness does not automatically give you practical righteousness.
- b. How do you begin to act righteously: perfect, mature, and finished?
- c. How did you receive imputed righteousness through regeneration? In the flesh or in Spirit?
  - ✓ John 1:12-13. "... Children of God, who were born ..."
    - "... Not of blood" (inheritance)
    - "... Nor of the will of the flesh" (human strength and effort)

"Nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out." Romans 7:18. "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing." John 6:63
    - "... Nor of the will of man" (man's traditions and group activity)
    - "... But of God": "So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:8
- d. In Romans 7, Paul describes his struggle with the flesh using the word *thelo* -- "want" or "desire"-- 7 times in 6 verses.

✓ v. 15. "I do not do what I <u>want</u> ..."	✓ v. 19. "... the evil I do not <u>want</u> ..."
✓ v. 16. "I do what I do not <u>want</u> ..."	✓ v. 20. "I do what I do not <u>want</u> ..."
✓ v. 18. "I have the <u>desire</u> to do what is right ..."	✓ v. 21. "I <u>want</u> to do right ..."
✓ v. 19. "... the good I <u>want</u> ..."	
✓ v. 22. "I <u>delight</u> in the law of God, in my inner being" <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>sunedomai</i>. 1) In Classical Gk, "to rejoice together with another or others"; 2) In Koine Gk, appears only once, "to rejoice or delight with oneself or inwardly"</li><li>○ "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Galatians 2:20.</li></ul>	
- e. Want and desire: is that such a big deal? "*I did it, but I didn't want to.*" Really?
  - ✓ What is natural man like? Romans 3:11-18. "No one understands; no one seeks for God ... no one does good, not even one ... There is no fear of God before their eyes."
- f. Natural man, before regeneration, is both unable to do and doesn't desire the true things of God.
- g. How does God make us perfect, mature us, and finish us in our souls - minds, hearts and emotions?
  - ✓ **The word taught and preached.** "The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing ... " Hebrews 4:12
  - ✓ **The sacraments.** "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" 1 Cor 10:16.
  - ✓ **The Body.** "The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me ..." John 17:22-23.
  - ✓ **Private prayers and meditating on God's word.** "My eyes are awake through the *night* watches, that I may meditate on Your word." Psalm 119:148
  - ✓ **God given adversity.** "Whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God." 1 Peter 4:1-2.