

## The Holiness of God

Leviticus 20.22-26

### Main Idea

For God to be Holy it means that He is Singularly (Unique) Separate (From the Common Creation), Pure (in His morality) and Full of Splendor (He is good). Therefore His people must be the same as they have been made Holy.

### Overview

#### **God's Holiness: Separate**

- Lev. 20.22: God is bringing in His people to display His glory, if they fail, they will be 'vomited' or kicked out
  - Why would God vomit out the Canaanites (or for that matter the Israelites)?
- Lev. 20.23: Because they did what was detestable to God (False worship)
- Lev. 20.24b-25: Gods people were to be separate from the 'common' or the 'detestable' in their practices...they are to be separate in terms of being among the 'clean' not the 'unclean' or 'detestable'
- Lev. 20.26: Gods people must be cultivating the clean from the unclean...or the 'testable' from the 'detestable' because His people are to be Holy (separate)
  - They are to be Holy because the God that made them is Holy (separate)
  - They are to be communicating to the world that God in His Holiness has no equal, that He is the definition of what is 'clean'
- Exodus 15.11, Deuteronomy 33.26, Jeremiah 10.6, Psalm 86.10, 1 Kings 8.27, etc.

#### **Gods Holiness: Singular (in His separation)**

- By "singular" we mean unique or alone in His separation
- Where cats could be 'separated' from dogs they still are among the common breed of a created animal:
  - When it comes to God He has no equal or anything even remotely like Him
  - There is nothing to compare God, He is in a category all by Himself

#### **Gods Holiness: Pure (Morally)**

- Lev. 20.23: For God to detest something means that there is something wrong as it is compared to a standard...and God is that standard as He is Holy (vs. 26)
  - Gods Laws reflect His character
  - We were created in His image to reflect that Moral Purity

#### **Gods Holiness: Full of Splendor (Happy/Good in His Holiness)**

- Leviticus 20.24: God is delivering His people into the Land of Canaan, a land that is "flowing with milk and honey"
  - This is a good gift to a sinful, idolatrous, ungrateful people
  - The God that is Singularly Separate, morally pure is also the same God that is full of splendor:
    - This piece is important to understand because to exclude it is to leave God as a kind of Angry Judge...this softens us to see that God in His Holiness is good
- We see all of this in the Cross of Christ!
  - The one who is the "image of the Invisible God" (Col. 1.15)

#### **Gods People are to be Holy: Singular, Separate, Pure, and Full of Splendor**

- 1 Peter 2.9-12:

- Gods people are to be unique and separate from the world in terms of what they value, how they think, what they do, etc. since they are Holy
- Gods people are to be set apart from the world in light of their Holiness (Romans 12.1-2)

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *When we hear the word “holy” what comes to mind? If you had to describe holiness to someone who had little or no biblical knowledge or background, how would you do it? Can you think of any stories in the Bible where people encounter God in His Holiness?*

1. Throughout Leviticus, it says, “You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.” (cf. 11:45; 19:2; 20:7). According to these verses (and all of Scripture!), why is understanding the holiness of God so important? What is lost if God’s holiness is not comprehended?
2. Read Leviticus 20:22-26. What’s the result if God’s people are not holy? What’s the “reward” for holiness? How does this apply to us?
3. Why is God so interested in his people being separate from other peoples?
4. In what way is God ‘clean’ and not ‘unclean’? How does that inform His intentions in vomiting out the Canaanites and brining in the Israelites?
5. Where do you see the goodness of God in these verses? Why is it critical to understand the Goodness or Splendor of God as a part of His Holiness?
6. Discuss the gospel from the lens of holiness. How does Jesus answer the commands in Leviticus 20:22-16?
7. How does Jesus and His Cross exhibit Gods Holiness? How do we become Holy?
8. Read 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2.9-12 & Romans 12.1-2. What does it look like to be God’s Holy People?
9. Holiness requires head, heart and hands. How does head knowledge alone miss the mark? How does heart level affections alone miss the mark? How does external obedience alone miss the mark?
10. In what way does a God centered worldview that is steeped in the Greatness and Majesty of God in His uniqueness cause move us?
11. How can we be “set apart” but not removed from the world and why should we be?
12. How does heaven (i.e. Revelation 21) answer the promise of Leviticus 20:22-26?

Accountability: Which aspect of Gods Holiness do you find yourself struggling with the most?  
Enjoying the most?