****October 23, 2016**

**What is God really like? – Part 8**

God is holy

**Holy / Holiness defined: God’s essential nature.**

* Many see only some people who do wonderful works as ‘holy’: like the Pope or Mother Teresa
* Yet the Bible **definition** in both OT & NT: ‘sacred, set apart’.
* For Eg. The Israelites were called to be a ’holy’ people.

**Exodus 19:6**

 -Set apart for various purposes:

 To bring forth the Messiah,

 To be a witness to the world,

 To be conveyers of God’s word.

* Yet their up & down history shows they didn’t always act ‘holy’.
* They were **not** even chosen because of their inherent holiness / size, goodness or special qualities. **Deuteronomy 7:6-7**

**True vs False holiness:**

* True: God centered - what He did on our behalf as His **grace gift** & how that impacts us

-Inner heart attitudes / postures of humility, meekness

-‘Clothed’ with His robe of righteousness.

***Or***

* False: Man centered: what we are ‘supposed’ to do to ‘earn’ His favor.

-Focused on performance & externals: Eg. Clothes.

-Clothed with our efforts … which always fall short.

**The issue of holiness is tied to what really happened at the cross**

* Sin was not only forgiven but also removed **from the equation** of relationship. **Colossians 2:13-14** / **1 John 3:5**
* You could say that sin is no longer the issue:

-If so, what then is the issue? (At least in God’s mind.)

* Faith in Christ (His work on our behalf) is what we live by: **Romans 2:4**

**Holiness: from ‘duty’ to ‘delight’:**

* **Duty** is what we are ‘required’ to do:

-Duty: ‘requirement, payment due, obligation’.

* **Deligh**t speaks rather about the **privilege** of living for our loving Father.

-Delight: ‘enjoyment, pleasure, joy.’

* **The Prodigal son, his brother, and their dad:** **Lke 15:11-32**

-Neither son really knew the father’s heart even though they both lived with Him for years.

(God will not force a good relationship off on us).

-The younger (prodigal) saw his father as someone to be ‘used’.

-The older saw the father as reluctant to bless task master to be ‘served’.

-Neither showed true respect for the father.

* **Devotional aspect** from this:

-Read the bible not for **information alone** but **transformation.**

* ‘Actions’ performed out of **duty** or **delightful** expressions of love: the fruit of holiness.

**Final Take Away**

*How to live in the realm of faith & grace:*

**Romans 5:17:** ‘Receive’ vs ‘work for’ / ‘gift’ vs ‘payment’ for work.

* We live by faith in Christ completed work.
* We are made (recreated) a holy nation, a royal priesthood.

**1 Peter 2:9**

* Identify with God’s view of who He has made us to be.
* Now that Christ **lives in** us, we are empowered to live the ‘Spirit filled life’. **Romans 8:1-3a**

-This is an ‘already done freedom’.

-Christ ‘within’ Vs Law ‘without’.

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