

Overflow: Holiness
Bethany Assembly of God
6.16.2024

Central Proposition: You should stand in awe of God's holiness.

Introduction

Our vision is to renew Bethany's foundations for an overflow of God's presence in the Pioneer Valley and around the world. We want to be revived as a church and prepared to make disciples and spread God's Kingdom. That sounds good and most believers here probably agree that this is a good idea. We should be making disciples. We want to see God's Kingdom grow, but sometimes we get stuck. What we need is an awareness of God's presence in our lives and an experience of the empowering work of the Holy Spirit that will cause us to overflow. We can't give what we don't have. We need a fullness of faith and God's presence that overflows out of our lives and impacts the world. When we see the greatness of God, the greatness of our need, and the greatness of His love that meets our need, then we can be revived.

So that's what we're going to examine in this series. We're going to study the holiness of God, the sinfulness of humanity, justification, sanctification, the indwelling Spirit, the authority of Christ, the Mission of Jesus, the unity we have in the community of Christ, expressing dependence on God through prayer, being freed from our cultural binds, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Today, we're starting with holiness. We'll talk about how holiness relates to our lives, but first we need to consider that God is holy. Holiness is not one of God's qualities but a description of what makes God, God. See Isaiah 29:23. Our holiness is derived: it's who we are in relationship to Him. He is holy without us. We cannot be holy without Him.

The pursuit of holiness begins with the recognition of who God is through what He has revealed in nature, in His Word, and by His Spirit. At the end of these notes are the attributes of God we went over in service. Read the Word to discover who He is. And as you do, you'll stand in awe of Him. Then, you'll be able to apply what you learn about God in your life as the Holy Spirit directs. What we want to do right now is apply what we've learned about God's holiness to our lives.

1. Wholly devoted to God's glory. See John 4:34; Luke 22:42.

We've seen that God's holiness makes Him distinct from anything that He's created. Since God is perfect, He is dedicated to His own purposes, nothing can sidetrack Him, and His purposes are good. When God sent Jesus, one of the hallmarks of His life was that He was completely dedicated to the Father's purposes and could not be sidetracked. Holiness means being completely dedicated to God; set apart.

2. Wholly righteous. See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

God's holiness also means that you should be wholly pure. God is perfect. He's free from moral corruption. He always does what is right. He cannot sin and cannot be tempted by evil. This means that as His followers, we should be committed to avoiding wrong, and doing what's right. God's holiness teaches us that sin is a big deal; it's an affront to the holiness of God. Jesus died for our sin, not so that we could continue in it as if it's no big deal, but so that we could be set free from it.

Conclusion

God is holy. We should stand in awe of that holiness. We don't stand in awe just by marveling internally, but by being wholly devoted to Him and wholly righteous. He makes that possible through Jesus.

If you're not already reading your Bible regularly, open it today and begin in Matthew. When you read the genealogy, ask, "What could God be teaching through this list?" Sometimes our Bible reading isn't enhanced when we start by asking, "What does this mean to me?" It's actually hindered because the starting point for life is not you. You aren't self-existent; God is. He's the starting point. He is holy. Here is a brief overview of some of God's primary attributes with a few Scriptures for you to look up so that you can stand in awe of God.

Aseity - God is self-existent and depends on no one else.

Aseity is a Latin word that means from self. No one created God and no one sustains Him. Sometimes, people ask, "Who created God?" The answer is not that God created himself, since that would be contradictory. If you don't exist already, you can't create yourself. It's not just hard to understand; it's logically impossible. God is uncreated. That is hard to understand, but it's not logically impossible. Two passages of Scripture that reveal God's aseity are **Acts 17:24-25** and **Colossians 1:16-17**.

Eternal - God is uncreated. He has always been and always will be.

A related idea is that God is eternal. A passage that reveals God's eternality is **Revelation 1:8**.

Omniscient - God knows everything.

This is different from being a "know-it-all," someone who thinks he knows everything and annoys everyone with his arrogance and ignorance. God actually knows everything. **Psalm 139:1-4** and **Isaiah 55:8-9** reveal God's omniscience.

Omnipotent - God is all powerful.

There is no limit on God's creative power. You and I have limits. We run out of energy and strength. We don't have all the creativity or skill. But God has all power. Two Scriptures that demonstrate God's omnipotence are **Genesis 18:14** and **Job 42:1-2**.

Sovereignty - God is in total control.

A related idea is God's sovereignty. He is in control of all things that happen in the universe, including the affairs of governments and people. I don't believe this means that He manipulates everything nor that He does not give responsibility and control to others. Rather, it means that even when people and spiritual beings rebel against Him, His ultimate purposes cannot be thwarted and He works even through their rebellious wills to accomplish His aims. For God's Sovereignty, consider **Isaiah 40:15** and **Daniel 4:34-35**.

Immutability - God does not change.

God is not like you and I. He is perfect and therefore, has no room for growth. Because He is perfect and complete, He does not change. His knowledge is complete and His character perfect. He is who He is. **James 1:17** and **Hebrews 13:8** are beautiful descriptions of God's trustworthiness due to His immutability.

Omnibenevolence - God is all good.

Many will recognize this Christian call and response. If I say, "God is good," you say, "all the time." "And all the time," "God is good." Not only is God good all the time, God is all good all the time. He is maximally good all the time. In a fallen world, it takes some faith to believe this because we don't always see how God is doing good in the middle of evil and pain. But the cross reveals God's goodness in every circumstance. **Romans 8:28**, **James 1:13**, and **James 1:17** are passages that describe God's perfect goodness.

Righteous - God always does what is right and just.

God is perfectly righteous. He cannot be corrupted by evil. Because of His aseity, you cannot give Him anything that will benefit Him in the ultimate sense. As a result, He can't be bribed into doing something wrong. He is always perfectly just in His judgments and decisions. **Deuteronomy 32:4** and **Psalm 9:8** speak of God's perfect righteousness and justice.

Love/Mercy - God is loving and merciful.

Though He is perfectly just, He also loves people and because of His great love, He shows mercy and patience toward humanity. **Exodus 34:6**, **Romans 5:6-8**, and **1 John 4:7-8** reveal the love of God.

Are you living in sin? Do you need to repent of excuses and cry out to God for forgiveness?