

**Campus Church of Christ Jail Ministry**  
**Lesson #4: "God's Attributes: Holiness and Goodness"**

**Focus points for this lesson:**

- **God is holy and calls us to strive toward holiness.**
- **God is only good and capable of producing only that which is good.**

**"God's Holiness"**

**Hebrews 12:14**

**Exodus 3:5**

**Exodus 26:33**

**John 6:69**

**How do we define "holy" or "holiness"?**

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**Exodus 15:11**

"God's holiness refers to both His majesty and His moral purity. God himself is an entirely different category in which He is the only member." (p. 106)<sup>1</sup>

**How Does God Reveal His Holiness?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

**How can we, sinful human beings, live holy lives?**

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**1 Peter 1:14-16**

Holiness is not about following a \_\_\_\_\_ but is about how passionately \_\_\_\_\_ beat for Jesus, how well we \_\_\_\_\_ His purity and His holiness. We must live in \_\_\_\_\_, but we must not be partakers in \_\_\_\_\_.

Once we understand that God is holy and that we are sinful creatures but our desire is to be holy in His sight, we can be covered by Jesus' holiness simply by accepting the free gift that He offers us in salvation. (Acts 2:38) Once we become Christians, Christ's blood continuously washes away our sins keeping us holy in God's eyes even though we are still imperfect. (1 John 1:7) Those of us who have been redeemed and sanctified through Christ will one day meet God face to face, and our holiness will become permanent as we live with Him for eternity.

### **How should we respond to God's holiness?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 12:14**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 4:17-24**

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Peter 1:14-16**

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 7:1**

### **Conclusion**

**Revelation 4:8** (NIV)

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

Whatever we see or know about God is magnified when we look through the lens of holiness. (p. 105)<sup>1</sup> When we finally get the high view of God that we should have, we stop comparing ourselves to others because we understand how much we fail to measure up to Him. Instead of trying to figure out how close we can get to sin without actually sinning, we begin trying to figure out how we can get as close to holiness – to God – as possible. (p. 108)<sup>1</sup> An upward, accurate view of God, high and holy, leads to an inward, accurate view of ourselves, sinful and in desperate need of God's forgiveness. This realization in turn leads to an outward view of our lives being about God's agenda instead of ours. Finally, our lives start being about doing God's will in meeting the needs of others instead of being about us in our own little worlds. (p. 109)<sup>1</sup> Our deepest desire and effort is moving us continuously upward toward the goal of meeting God's desire for us of becoming holy like Him so that we are properly "attired" to spend eternity in His presence.

God in the flesh, Jesus Christ, gave His everything for us. Because He created us, He loves us, and He desires our presence with Him for all of eternity. How will you respond to such great love?

## **"God's Goodness"**

**How do we define "goodness"?** \_\_\_\_\_

## Is goodness in general different from "God's goodness"?

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**How can we know for sure that God is good and only capable of producing that which is good?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 5:45**

**Psalms 145:7-9**

**Psalms 145:15-17**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

In Psalm 107 we learn of four specific deliverances that are a result of God's goodness:

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ the helpless from his enemies
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ us from the "gates of death"
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ our diseases
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ us from the "storms of life".

As we learned when we studied God's sovereignty, He does not choose to heal every disease or protect from every storm, but whatever He does allow is for our ultimate good.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Colossians 1: 15, 19**

Jesus reveals God's goodness in at least three ways. (p. 67)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 5:8**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:32**

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**James 1:17-18**

God gave us His very best in Jesus Christ, and it is through Him that we receive God's specific promised goodness found in our relationship with Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 1:20**

In order to fully understand and appreciate God's goodness, we must begin and end with His Son! (p. 68)

**When we understand God's goodness, how should we respond to it?**

"God wants us to know that He has been good, kind, cordial, loving, and generous with us for one specific purpose – to lead us to **repentance**. We are to see God's goodness and have a change of mind that leads to a change of direction that leads to a changed life." (p. 69)

## Romans 2:4

Our response in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ comes as a result of both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. When we understand and appreciate all that God has done for us, we cannot help but show our gratitude. This gratitude results in our unabashed worship of Him in every aspect of our lives. Together, our faith and our gratitude produce repentance.

Life is hard. We live in a fallen world where bad things happen, even to good people. If we trust in God's goodness, however, we can find **rest and peace** in Him from this world's suffering. He will give us refuge.

## Psalm 31:19-20

When our faith in God's goodness has developed, then our trust increases to where we are willing to **risk** stepping out and living by faith. We no longer feel the need to control our own lives, but rather the need to put the control in God's hands because we know He loves us deeply and will take care of us and provide good things for us.

***"Ultimately, God isn't good because He does good things for us. And God isn't good because of something in us. God is good because of something in Him. He can be nothing else. Both God and his choices remain good, even when they may not feel or look particularly good to us. His intrinsic eternal nature, in all of his attributes, is good. In His wisdom and sovereignty, He decides the perfect times to respond to your cries of distress, to deliver you, and to display his greatness. God doesn't have to respond at all, nor every time, nor even in the same way every time. He acts because He is merciful and because He is good. He longs for you to get to know Him and trust Him in a way that causes you to turn to him." (p. 65)***

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### References:

<sup>1</sup> Ingram, Chip. ***God as He Longs for You to See Him***, Chapters 4 & 6.  
Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004.

All scripture references are from <http://www.biblegateway.com/>

Definitions are from <http://dictionary.reference.com>

We believe and teach nothing more and nothing less than God's Word as He has revealed it to us in the Bible. If you are looking for a church, we invite you to come and worship with us at Campus Church of Christ, 1525 Indian Trail Rd., Norcross, GA 30093. You may visit us online at [www.campuschurch.org](http://www.campuschurch.org). Sunday morning worship services are at 8:30 and 11:00. We have Bible classes for all ages at 9:45. Sunday evening, we meet at 6:00 and Wednesday evening at 7:00.