2020 06 07 The Holiness of God.

Gen1:1-2a. Psalm 104:24-35. 1 Cor 12:3-13. John 20:19-23

How does an unholy person – or even a ‘good’ human being who lives a normal life describe “Holiness”?

We cannot -

# We can only use words that are human earthly words to tell of something so pure, clean, shinning, transparent and if we come into distant contact with pure holiness, we can only say with (Isaiah 6:5)

**5**“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am undone! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

# And Peter - he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “**Depart from me**, for I **am** a sinful man, **O Lord** ... I beg you, my Lord, abandon me, for I **am a sinner**.” (Luke 5:8)

All through the bible record whenever people saw an angel they responded in fear or where overwhelmed by the glory and wonder and fear - the ‘difference’ between them and us – “woe is me for I am undone –…. And John who had lived close with Jesus when he saw Him in Glory - fell at his feet as one dead. (Rev 1:17)

The most frequent word of praise in heaven to God is ‘Holy, Holy, Holy” (Revelations 4:8).

Moses when he saw the burning bush that was not consumed by the fire – a voice from the flame said “take of your shoes for the ground is holy ground” – even the very ground, the earth where Gods voice spoke from is holy. (Exodus 3:5).

When Moses went up onto the mountain and received the 10 Commandments from God, the physical mountain itself was so infused with God, was so Holy, that even if an animal was to set foot on it, they would die. (Exodus 19:13)

The ‘Old Testament’, the time before Jesus was a time where God set rules and sacrifices of animals for people to be able to be temporary clean enough to come within a safe distance to Himself.

What we call the ‘Trinity’ is three ways that God reveals Himself – from the very first few lines of the bible (Genesis 1.) this is revealed: “In the beginning God – created the heavens and the earth … and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God ‘spoke’ - ‘let there be light’; and there was light.”

God, Spirit and the Word of God – ONE

Jesus is referred to as ‘the Word’, ‘the Light of the world’ many times in the bible.

Father, Son – the Word, and Spirit – the Presence of God.

One God – three revelations of God through all eternity – unbroken, undivided – *until;*

“God is of purer eyes than to look at uncleanness.” (Habakuk 1:13) The cross where Jesus took our sins into himself – became us – became all the sins of those who had and did and would trust in him – and the *Holiness of God* could not look at him.

“My God My God why have You forsaken me” was our Lords cry from the cross. (Matthew 27:46)

Jesus became sin, but was not guilty of sin and God raised Him to life – His new life was different – time and space were no longer relevant but He was and is **holy** - clean – a new body as we who believe and follow will be fully at the resurrection of *us.*

Jesus, the Son, conquered evil, conquered death by going *through death,* in taking our rebellions into himself he came under the power of him who had the power of death – we call him Satan or Lucifer or the Devil. (1 Corinthians 15:55)

But Jesus was innocent, ‘*not guilty’* in himself and the power of life in him raised him from the dead – Jesus ever lives in God and we are in Him and Gods Presence is in us. (Ephesians 1)

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| Now ask ourselves – Jesus taking our sins – how does that leave us – all washed and clean looking but empty – look at the second part of the verse – (2 Corinthians 5:21) |
| “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)  Two words, both common words with many applications:  ‘made’: a generic **term** of action or performance,  and ‘become’: to bring to pass, to happen.  On the cross God treated Jesus as if He had lived our lives. Now God treats us as if we had lived Christ’s life. [2 Corinthians 5:21 (unknown source)]  We are filled NOW, TODAY, with richtousness, with *the holiness of God.*  In this life we see the battle we live, the battle between who we ARE NOW and who we WERE BEFORE we came to repentance and new life in Jesus.  We are holy, we are a new creation in Christ Jesus, old things have passed away, how else could Jesus tell us to address God as “Our Father. Who is in heaven hallowed/holy be your name.” how is Gods name hallowed – “may Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven.”  We are told to “be you holy as I am Holy” (1 Peter 1:16).  This is where the water becomes a little murky for me - being holy now in Gods reality and yet still living with the temptations of being ‘me’ – of ‘you’.  Paul cried out “who will save me from this body of death – thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord – therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus because the law of the Spirit has set you free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 7:24-8:2)  “Now we see through a glass darkly but then (in death or the Lords return) then we will see face to face and be known even as we are known”  In the now – today we are holy and we, like Paul in Romans 7, & 8, we are confronted with these two sides of our living.  **So** this is the reality – now just two more things – “our Father who is in heaven, hallowed/holy be Your name - ***how -*** by Your will being done on earth as it is in heaven ----- how do we know Gods will --- we see God in Jesus’ life and character and actions and we have God in us in the person or presence of the Holy Spirit or presence of God.  We choose how we respond to temptation  We choose how we deal with failure/ with sin  We choose to be honest with God  We choose to be sorry and to draw upon Gods strength in us next time the same ‘old me’ tries it on again.  The night before his death Jesus washed the disciples feet and Peter was not having it – he said Lord you will never wash my feet and Jesus wonderful love reply was ‘if I do not was you, you have none of me’ Peter – not just my feet Lord but wash all of me – Jesus – once you are clean you do not need to wash again - just your feet!!!!!!!!!  The Holiness of Jesus, of God knows that we will sin and will repent and come back to the cleansing of the cross, to Jesus blood shed for us.  And we will come, He will cleanse the dirt of the day –this is the work of the Holy Spirit in us (John 14-16) **or** if not, will we try to leave a blot on the Holiness of God that we have become?  Jesus became sin for us – yes – and this is unbreakably united with the result of his death and resurrection - “so that we might become the rightness of God in Jesus.” |
| We must accept the full redemption, the full salvation and the full life which is now in the eternity in which we already live. |