

UNIT 1: Getting to Know God the Father
LESSON 6: "God's Holy and Righteous Character"
DATE: October 25, 2015
NEXT WEEK: "Jesus Deity—The Son of God"
 (Colossians 1:15-20)

INTRODUCTION

"Our God is a consuming fire. He is satisfied only when His love totally consumes us...We should not resent the fact that God wants to guard our relationship with Him. It should bring us comfort." –Blackaby

GOD IS _____ (PSALM 99).

Holiness – "God is entirely _____ from sin."

A. The _____ aspect of God's holiness

B. The _____ aspect of God's holiness

- "God is sovereign, so live confidently. God is holy, so live reverently."
–Adrian Rogers

Application: God's holiness should provoke reverence (v.1), praise (v. 3), exaltation (v.5), and worship (v.9) within us. After all, every glorious attribute of God is to be understood in light of His holiness. He is holy love. He is holy greatness. He is holy mercy, etc. When humans are confronted with His holiness, God's purity blazes forth in contrast to our impurity (i.e., Isaiah 6), yet with the coming of Jesus the holy One, human beings can be made holy and fit for His presence. Because of Christ's work, all believers are called "saints," or holy ones (Romans 1:7; Ephesians 4:12).

GOD IS _____ (PSALM 99).

Justice – "God always does what is _____ and He is the final standard of what is _____."

A. God's justice is displayed in His _____.

- Because God always does right (righteousness), He alone is the final standard of what is right. God is the standard of what is worthy of approval (goodness), so He is the standard of what is morally correct (just).

B. God's justice is displayed in His _____.

- Because God loves everything that is right and conforms to His holy character, then He necessarily hates anything opposed to His holiness. God's wrath is his settled disposition against sin.

Application: Our God is just. We who were unjust are now righteous through Christ. Because we are no longer alienated from God, we follow Him in His deep commitment not only to personal justice but also to justice in society. In many ways, the biblical call to seeking justice in our world is summarized in what Jesus called the second most important command: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31; see Leviticus 19:18).

GOD IS _____ (EXODUS 34:14).

Jealous – "God's desire to hold on to and retain what He holds _____"

A. God is jealous _____ us, not _____ us.

- God is properly jealous for His people, wanting the best for them. His intent is to protect us, and He is seeking our honor and welfare.
- "God yearns for the wholehearted love of His bride because He knows that this is the only place she will be fully free, fully alive, fully and intensely whole." –Timothy J. Stoner

B. God is continually seeking to protect His _____.

- It is right for God to seek His own honor, for He alone deserves it. As our Creator, God's jealousy when His creatures do not seek His glory is perfectly splendid.

Application: God is jealous for His glory. He loves His people and is jealous for them. In His jealous love, He has pursued rebels and turned them into worshipers. This is the motivating force for our work in the world: to see the honor of God's name spread ever farther and farther. This compels us forward in doing good and sharing the good news of Jesus to those who have fallen short of the glory of God.

CONCLUSION

The Prophet Hosea's experience was a sign that showed God's people His own jealous love for them. God promised: "I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord" (2:19-20). Here is God's holiness, justice, and jealousy all at once. And today, we who were rebels against the Holy One have been brought to Him. And because of who He is, He calls us to follow Him in these attributes. God is holy; therefore, we as His people are to be holy and to pursue holiness. God is just; therefore, we, His people, are to pursue righteousness in all our dealings, both personally, in our church lives, and in society. God is jealous; therefore, we must remain faithful to Him and reflect His glory through our lives.

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