

**Christian Life Assembly**

**The Journey Class**

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# CHRISTIAN BOOK REPORTS - 2019

# The Holiness of God — [R.C. Sproul](#)

# The Holiness of God

- **“Why would the disciples invent a God whose holiness was more terrifying than the forces of nature that provoked them to invent a god in the first place?”**

R.C. Sproul

# The Holiness of God

- Holiness is \_\_\_\_\_.

# The Holiness of God

- Holiness is *the sum total of all that God is.*

# The Strong's Hebrew Definitions of Holiness

**Grk Strong:** [G37](#) [G38](#) [G39](#) [G48](#) [G307](#) [G1291](#) [G1392](#) [G1521](#) [G2511](#) [G3903](#)

1) to consecrate, sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy, be sanctified, be separate

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to be set apart, be consecrated

1a2) to be hallowed

1a3) consecrated, tabooed

1b) (Niphal)

1b1) to show oneself sacred or majestic

1b2) to be honoured, be treated as sacred

1b3) to be holy

1c) (Piel)

1c1) to set apart as sacred, consecrate, dedicate

1c2) to observe as holy, keep sacred

1c3) to honour as sacred, hallow

1c4) to consecrate

1d) (Pual)

1d1) to be consecrated

1d2) consecrated, dedicated

1e) (Hiphil)

1e1) to set apart, devote, consecrate

1e2) to regard or treat as sacred or hallow

1e3) to consecrate

1f) (Hithpael)

1f1) to keep oneself apart or separate

# The Strong's Greek Definition of Holiness

**Word:** [agioj](#)

**Pronounce:** *hag'-ee-os*

**Strong's Number:** [G40](#)

**Orig:** from hagos (an awful thing) (compare 53, 2282); holy (one, thing), saint. [G53](#)

**Use:** TDNT-1:88,14 Adjective

**Heb Strong:** [H6944](#)

1) most holy thing, a saint

For Synonyms see entry [G5878](#)

# The Holiness of God

- **“If I were to ask a group of Christians what the top priority of the church is, I am sure I would get a wide variety of answers. Some would say evangelism, others social action, and still others spiritual nurture. What about “hallowed be Your name?”. R.C. Sproul**



# The Holiness of God

- A subtle distinction here is that Jesus did not say to pray, “hallowed is your name” (title), but He said to pray, “*hallowed be your name*”.

# The Holiness of God

- **“A recent survey of people who used to be church members revealed that the main reason they stopped going to church was that they found it boring. It is difficult for many people to find worship a thrilling and moving experience. We note here, when God appeared in the temple, the doors and the thresholds were moved. The inert matter of doorposts, the inanimate thresholds, the wood and metal that could neither hear nor speak had the good sense to be moved by the presence of God. The literal meaning of the text is that they were shaken. They began to quake where they stood.” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. 5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

# The Holiness of God

- **“If ever there was a man of integrity, it was Isaiah ben Amoz. He was a whole man, a together type of a fellow. He was considered by his contemporaries as the most righteous man in the nation. He was respected as a paragon of virtue. Then he caught one sudden glimpse of a holy God. In that single moment, all of his self-esteem was shattered. In a brief second he was exposed, made naked beneath the gaze of the absolute standard of holiness.” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- **“As long as Isaiah could compare himself to other mortals, he was able to sustain a lofty opinion of his own character. The instant he measured himself by the ultimate standard, he was destroyed— morally and spiritually annihilated. He was undone. He came apart. His sense of integrity collapsed.” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- **“The sudden realization of ruin was linked to Isaiah’s mouth. He cried, “I am a man of unclean lips.” Strange. We might have expected him to say, “I am a man of unclean habits,” or, “I am a man of unclean thoughts.” Instead he called attention immediately to his mouth. In effect he said, “I have a dirty mouth.” Why this focus on his mouth? Perhaps a clue to Isaiah’s utterance may be found in the words of Jesus when He said that it’s not what goes into people’s mouths that defiles them; it’s what comes out of their mouths that defiles them.” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- “In the flash of the moment Isaiah had a new and radical understanding of sin. He saw that it was pervasive, in himself and in everyone else.” R.C. Sproul
- “For the first time in his life Isaiah really understood who God was. At the same instant, for the first time Isaiah really understood who Isaiah was.” R.C. Sproul

# The Holiness of God

- If the “people” of God are bored at the idea of worshipping Him the only sensible, rationale, and logical conclusion to such a notion is that we do not know Him!



# The Holiness of God

- **“The clearest sensation that a human being has when he experiences the holy is an overpowering and overwhelming sense of creatureliness. That is, when we are in the presence of God, we are humbled and become most aware of ourselves as creatures. This is the opposite of Satan's original temptation, "You shall be as gods.” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- I, in fact, have this nagging fear that the church of our day has a very small view of God – this evidenced by the songs we sing, the need to be entertained, and in the fact that today's Christian seems to have little appetite for "meat" from the Word.

# The Holiness of God

- **“The perfect church service would be the one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God. But every novelty prevents this. It fixes our attention on the service itself; and thinking about worship is a different thing than worshipping ... 'Tis mad idolatry that makes the service greater than the god.” C. S. Lewis**

# The Holiness of God

- **“That the world has little respect for God is vividly seen by the way the world regards His name. No honor. No reverence. No awe before Him.” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- Luke 19:36 As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. 37 As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, 38 shouting: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” 40 But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”

# The Holiness of God

- Lev 10:1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. 2 And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. 3 Then Moses said to Aaron, “It is what the Lord spoke, saying, ‘By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.’” So Aaron, therefore, kept silent. NASB

# The Holiness of God

- “The instructions had been clear. The altar of incense was declared by God to be “most holy.” When Nadab and Abihu offered strange or unauthorized fire on it, they were acting in clear defiance of God. Their’s was an act of blatant rebellion, an inexcusable profaning of the Holy Place. They committed a sin of arrogance, an act of treason against God: They profaned a most holy place. God’s judgment was swift. His explanation to Moses was clear: “I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people *I will be honored.*” R.C. Sproul

# The Holiness of God

- **“God’s holiness is more than just separateness. His holiness is also transcendent. The word transcendence means literally “to climb across.” It is defined as “exceeding usual limits.” To transcend is to rise above something, to go above and beyond a certain limit. When we speak of the transcendence of God, we are talking about that sense in which God is above and beyond us. Transcendence describes His supreme and absolute greatness.” R.C. Sproul**



# The Holiness of God

- “But when the word holy is applied to God, it does not signify one single attribute. On the contrary, God is called holy in a general sense. The word is used as a synonym for His deity. *That is, the word holy calls attention to all that God is.* It reminds us that His love is holy love, His justice is holy justice, His mercy is holy mercy, His knowledge is holy knowledge, His Spirit is Holy Spirit.” R.C. Sproul

# The Holiness of God

- “We fear God because He is holy. Our fear is not the healthy fear that the Bible encourages us to have. Our fear is a servile fear, a fear born of dread. God is too great for us; He is too awesome. He makes difficult demands on us. He is the Mysterious Stranger who threatens our security. In His presence we quake and tremble. Meeting Him personally may be our greatest trauma .” R.C. Sproul

# The Holiness of God

- **“The law of God is the mirror of true righteousness. When we set our works before this mirror, the reflection in it tells us of our imperfections. Jesus held this mirror up before the eyes of the rich young ruler: “You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal. . . .’ ” (Luke 18:20). R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- **“How did the rich man answer? He was not bothered. He looked calmly in the mirror and saw no imperfections. He replied: “All these I have kept since I was a boy” (Luke 18:21). Imagine the arrogance or the ignorance of the man. I find it difficult to understand Jesus’ patience. I could not have contained myself. I would have instantly expressed my indignation by saying something like, “What! You have kept the Ten Commandments since you were a boy! You haven’t kept any of the Ten Commandments for the last five minutes. Didn’t you hear the Sermon on the Mount?” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- **“When we understand the character of God, when we grasp something of His holiness, then we begin to understand the radical character of our sin and hopelessness. Helpless sinners can survive only by grace. Our strength is futile in itself; we are spiritually impotent without the assistance of a merciful God. We may dislike giving our attention to God's wrath and justice, but until we incline ourselves to these aspects of God's nature, we will never appreciate what has been wrought for us by grace. Even Edwards's sermon on sinners in God's hands was not designed to stress the flames of hell. The resounding accent falls not on the fiery pit but on the hands of the God who holds us and rescues us from it. The hands of God are gracious hands. They alone have the power to rescue us from certain destruction.” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- **“The most violent expression of God's wrath and justice is seen in the Cross. If ever a person had room to complain for injustice, it was Jesus. He was the only innocent man ever to be punished by God. If we stagger at the wrath of God, let us stagger at the Cross. Here is where our astonishment should be focused.” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- **“We tend to have mixed feelings about the holy. There is a sense in which we are at the same time attracted to it and repulsed by it. Something draws us toward it, while at the same time we want to run away from it. We can’t seem to decide which way we want it. Part of us yearns for the holy, while part of us despises it. We can’t live with it, and we can’t live without it.” R.C. Sproul**

# The Holiness of God

- **“It is one thing to fall victim to the flood or to fall prey to cancer; it is another thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” R.C. Sproul**



**Next Week:**  
**The Screwtape Letters**  
**C.S. Lewis**

# QUESTIONS