



CBC Men's Fellowship

September 22, 2014

The Holiness of God

Chapter 3 – The Fearful Mystery

Key quotes from chapter 3 -

God's holiness is transcendent. He is higher than the world. He has absolute power over the world. The world has NO power over Him. God's holiness means He is transcendentally separate. Objects or people must be consecrated or sanctified by God to be made holy. God alone is holy in Himself. 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, etc. *p.46 & 48*

When we call things holy when they are not holy, we commit the sin of idolatry. When a minister "consecrates" a marriage or a communion wafer, it is understood that he is merely proclaiming a reality that God has already consecrated. *P.40 & 50*

God is the ultimate object of xenophobia. He is the ultimate stranger. He is the ultimate foreigner. He is holy, and we are not. *p.56*

A holy God calls His people to holy living. It is inconceivable that it should be otherwise. Blaise Pascal said, "The serene beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world next to the power of God." Living holy is both for others and us.

Question that will help and influence our discussion on chapter 3 -

1. The phrase "fear of God" is a biblical expression describing the proper response to the holiness of God. Define what the "fear of God" means using the following scriptures: Exodus 15:1-21, 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Isaiah 40:12-31 and Revelation 15:1-4.

2. Considering God's holiness what is 1 John 1:6 saying? How does this compare with Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 13:5?
3. The command, "Be holy, because I am holy," occurs in both the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 11:44 and 1 Peter 1:16) Read through Leviticus 19, where this command in verse 2 is followed by a number of practical injunctions. Some were peculiar to the Jewish nation and other are of abiding significance to us today. List those that apply to us today.
4. Some people are concerned only with personal holiness; others think our greatest need is for holiness or justice in society. What does Leviticus 19 say to us about this "debate"?
5. What are some of the issues of contemporary society not specifically addressed in the Bible for which Leviticus 19 might give us some guiding principles?
6. "Be holy, because I am holy." In what ways can we NOT be holy as God is holy? In what ways can we be?
7. The apostle Paul frequently addressed believers as saints or holy ones (Eph.1:1, Phil. 1:1). What makes a person, either in Paul's time or in ours, a saint? How should the knowledge that he or she is a saint affect a person's everyday life?
8. Why is church worship center called a sanctuary? How do you account for people's spirit of reverence when in a sanctuary? Ours is set up each Sunday in the community center. Should our conduct there be any different than it is outside the sanctuary?

9. Rudolph Otto, in his study of the holy, concluded that in each human mind is something he names the “mysterium tremendum,” sensed and felt by the human spirit as a permanent religious instinct. Do you agree?

10. Why do you think the first petition of the Lord’s Prayer is “Hallowed be Thy name? How is God responding to your petition in your personal life, family, work and relationships? How are you actively responding in the same areas of concern?

Questions at the end of chapter 3 –

1. In what ways is God an awe-ful mystery to you?

2. Does God’s mystery comfort you or frighten you?

3. What do you learn about yourself as you comprehend the mystery of God’s holiness?

4. During the coming week, how will you worship God for the mystery of His holiness?