

Jars of Holiness

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

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We can blend in by choosing worldliness or stand out by choosing holiness.

- I. God's Majestic Holiness (Exodus 15:11)
 - A. "He is absolutely distinct from all His creatures and is exalted above them in infinite majesty." (Berkhof, Systematic Theology)
 - B. "We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable." (Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy)
- II. God's Ethical Holiness (Habakkuk 1:13a)
 - A. "God is morally pure, He cannot condone evil or have any relationship to it. In His holiness God is the moral and ethical standard; He is the law. He sets the standard." (Enns, Moody Handbook of Theology)
 - B. "In respect to God, holiness means not only that He is separate from all that is unclean and evil but also that He is positively pure and thus distinct from all others." (Ryrie, Basic Theology)
- III. Our Positional Holiness (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - A. "The absolute, innate holiness of God means that sinners have to be separated from Him unless a way can be found to constitute them holy. And that way has been provided in the merits of Jesus Christ." (ibid)
- IV. Our Practical Holiness
 - A. "A proper view of the holiness of God should make the believer sensitive to his own sin." (ibid)
 1. To be healthy involves the absence of illness and the presence of vitality.
 2. To be holy involves the absence of evil and the presence of what is right. (7)
- V. Our Progressive Holiness
 - A. Taking time to review our lives.
 - B. Taking time to repent our sins.
 - C. Taking time to restore our walk.
- VI. Our Perfect Holiness (Revelation 22:1-5)

So What?

- It should go without saying that a holy God would expect His people to be holy.
- It should be obvious to "jars of clay" that we cannot be holy in our own strength.
- It should be disconcerting if we are not making progress on the path of holiness.