

God’s Holiness Standard
1 Pet 1:13-16

Intro: Today is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Many Hoosiers complain about the changing of our clocks in the spring and in the fall each year but the truth is 47 or 48 states have been doing it for more than 35 years with little trouble. You might say that the rest of the country was on a standard time and we here in Indiana were non-standard. We would spend half of the year on Eastern Standard Time and the other half of the year on Central Standard Time.

The fact that we have more than one time zone in the in the US was a concept that began on November 18, 1883 by the railroads. It was there way of standardizing time across the country to make scheduling the trains more consistent. Since then we have measured time in our country by 4 time zones, Eastern, Central, mountain & Pacific.

In our text today Peter quotes from Leviticus 11:44 establishing God “Holiness Standard” for the New Testament believer.

[Read 1 Peter 1:13-17/Pray/Dismiss Jr church]

Two weeks ago we began our look at what it means to have a passion for holiness. Last week’s truth was that God expect us to live holy lives. Today we will look at the same text where we find the second truth about holiness and that is God’s has a standard for holiness.

God doesn’t just tell us to be holy he tell us to be Holy **“for He is Holy.”** The idea behind this statement is that if we profess to be his people, then we ought to be like our God. That is exactly what

the phrase means. If you claim Christianity then God has set the standard for holiness...Himself.

That’s right, in a very real sense; God is telling us that when it comes to holiness His standard is the only acceptable standard. Therefore to fully understand the standard we have to look at God’s holiness and then through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us reach for that standard.

What is the standard that God set?

I. ***First of All We Should Hate Sin Because God Hates Sin***

A. Listen to how much God despises sin:

1. Habakkuk tells us that God is “... ***of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity...***”
2. Moses records how God felt about man when he writes in Gen 6:4-7, “***And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. ⁷And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.***”
3. In Deu 25:16 we are told that “...***all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God***”
4. Solomon tells us in Prov 15:9, “***The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD***” but he goes one step further in verse 26 and tells us that even “***The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD***”

- B. The Scriptures are full of examples and illustrations of just how much God hates sin
- C. If we are to be Holy as He is holy then we need to see sin the way he sees sin – He hates it we should hate it.
 - 1. Sin, any sin should turn our stomach
 - a) A dirty joke
 - b) A dirty TV show
 - c) Viler language
 - d) Lying – any kind of lying should disturb us
 - 2. Lot is a good example of where most Christians are regarding sin. He was a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7) who should have hated sin enough to confront it around him.

Instead his sense of moral indignation was dulled by the world. He chose to dwell in cities where there was great wickedness (Genesis 13:12,13). When Sodom was invaded by hostile kings, he was captured. After Abraham rescued Lot, he was still drawn back to that wicked city (Genesis 19:1).

The last chapter of his story is an account of heartache and shame (Genesis 19). What a contrast - - this nephew and his uncle!

Abraham trusted God, prayed for the righteous, and lived a moral life.

Lot was **"vexed [oppressed] with the filthy conversation of the wicked"** (2 Peter 2:7). Although the sin of his day bothered him, he apparently said little about it.

3. We need to confront sin no matter where we find it regardless the cost.
4. When king Uzziah died we read in Isaiah 6 the Isaiah **“saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple”** (Is 6:1) and he then goes on to describe just what he saw. After the pureness of God’s holiness was realized by him, he cried out, **“Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts”** (6:5).

Isaiah was confronted with God’s holiness and he realized his on sin and the sin of those around him

- D. The Standard of Holiness is **“Be ye holy; for God is holy”**
 - E. The only way we can ever hope to be holy is to have holy hatred of sin – God does
- II. **Secondly We Should Separate From The Sinner Because God Separates From Sinner**
- A. Isaiah warned the Israelites that their **“...iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”**
 - B. Solomon tells us that **“The LORD is far from the wicked...”** (Prov 15:29)
 - C. Paul told the Corinthians to **“...come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”** (2 Cor 6:17)
 - D. I doubt that I would get much argument from any here today that the world has become so full of sin that it is all but intolerable.

1. Yet most of us find it hard to **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world”**
 2. Charles Spurgeon said, **“I cannot imagine a man professing to be a Christian, and then acting as the world acts, and yet honoring Christ.”**
- E. It is true that God hates sin but He also makes a point of separating himself from all sin.
1. To be bound together with unbelievers is not only foolish and irreverent, but it also disobeys God’s command to come out from among them
 2. Separation is explicitly taught in 2 Cor 6:14, a verse that many like to make only about dating/marring an unbeliever but listen to that verse very carefully, **“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?”**
 - a) We shouldn’t be yoked with; this means we are not to form binding relationships with nonbelievers because this might weaken their Christian commitment, integrity, or standards.
 - b) This doesn’t mean we are to isolate ourselves from the world – we are still expected to witness to them, that is why we are still here
 - c) The only interaction God has with the unbeliever is his missions of reconciliation.
 3. The best illustration of God separating Himself from sin is the building of the Tabernacle. God clearly established that there would be a separation between himself and the sinner.

We are told in Heb 9 that the High Priest could only enter into the Most Holy place **“...once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself,**

and for the errors of the people” (Heb 9:7). We are told that was because sinners ability to stand in the presence of a holy God **“was not yet made manifest”** (v. 8). But thank God that when Christ gave up the ghost **“the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom”** (Matt. 27:50) and that the **“middle wall of partition between us”** (Eph 2:14) was broken down.

- F. We are to **Hate Sin – Because God hates Sin; and we are to Separate from the Sinner Because God Separates Himself from the Sinner**
- III. **Finally We Should To Offer Grace To The Sinner Because God Offers Grace To The Sinner.**
- A. When one considers just how much God hates sin and how he works to be separated from the sinner John 3:16 takes on a much greater meaning.
1. **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”**
 2. In spite of his hatred of sin God still extended grace to the sinner by sending his only begotten son.
- B. He made an infinite sacrifice to save others from sin
1. The death of Christ is not only a demonstration of the Love of God but the greatest evidence of the holiness of God
 2. God doesn't punish the sinner only for the sinners good
 - a) Because God is holy
 - b) Like all his other attributes His holiness is active and must display itself
 - c) Therefore his holy hatred of sin requires that he strike down sin

- d) This is where Christ comes in...rather than strike down the entire world for their sins he struck down Christ for all our sins
 - e) ***“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all”***
(Is. 53:6).
3. To view the punishment of God and leave out the idea of it being an expression of his holy hatred of sin is not only unbiblical but also shallow and dishonoring to God
- C. God is first of all holy and he will always be holy
1. If you ever get angry at some enormous sin in the world – like a child molester – then you get a very small glimpse of God’s hatred of sin
 2. Since God is holy his hatred burns much deeper and hotter at even of sins
 3. True God is love but not as we define love – sentimental and emotional
 4. R. A. Torrey said committing on God’s love, ***“this love is not of the sentimental sort that sends costly bouquets and tender missives to moral monsters, as some of our Universalist theologians would have us think. ‘Our God is a consuming fire’ (Heb 12:29). God’s love for sinners will never be appreciated until it is seen in the light of His blazing wrath at sin.”***
- D. Timothy tells us that the reason Jesus came into the world was to ***“to save sinners”*** (1Tim 1:15).
1. Jesus told us to ***“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”*** (Mark 16:15)
 2. He said the as ***“my Father hath sent me, even so send I you”*** (Jn 20:21).

- E. If we are to be **“Be...holy; [as God is] holy”** then part of the holiness is to share our faith with others.

Conclusion: God has set the standard, the Holiness standard and we are expected to keep that standard. How do we do that? By ***Hating Sin because God Hates Sin, Separating from Sinners because God Separated from Sinners*** and finally, by ***Offering the Grace of Christ to sinners because God offered Grace to the sinner.***

You and I someday must meet this holy God. The prophet Amos cries, ***“Prepare to meet thy God!”*** (Amos 4:12). Every man and woman here must someday meet God. The rich must meet God! The beggar must meet God! The scholar must meet God! The uneducated man must meet God! The politician must meet God! The president must meet God! Everyone must meet God! The supreme question of life, then, is this: Are you ready to meet God? None of us can tell how soon it may be that we shall meet God. Within forty years almost every man and woman here today will have met God. Are you ready? If not, I beg you to get ready before leaving today.

How can we meet God with joy and not with panic? There is only one ground upon which man may meet God with joy and not with anguish. That ground is the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. God is infinitely holy, and the best of us is but a sinner. The only ground upon which a sinner can meet the holy God is on the ground of the shed blood of Christ. Any of us, no matter how outcast or vile, can go boldly into the Holy of Holies on the ground of the shed blood, and the best man or woman that ever walked earth can meet God on no other ground than the shed blood. There is only one adequate preparation for the sinner to meet God that is the acceptance of Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, who bore all

our sins on the Cross, and as our risen Savior who is able to set us free from the power of sin.

Church, are you ready to meet God? If it be the will of God, I am ready to go up into His presence, and meet Him face to face today. Are you ready to meet God?

If you are ready today whom are you taking with you? If we are to be Holy has God is holy then we need to extending Grace to the sinners around us; it is part of **God's Holiness Standard**.