



Church of Christ

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Heart to Heart...

One of the greatest things lacking in people is seeing God as holy. When it is brought to our attention, we immediately respond, but for His holiness to impact our lives and attitudes each passing day is another thing.

When Moses had his first encounter with God, he had to come to the realization that God is holy. (Ex. 3:1-5) There would be no more advancement, no help from God until Moses recognized His holiness. Isaiah refers to God as *"the Holy One of Israel"* 26 times, *"the holy One"* 8 times, and *"Holy"* 13 times. Ezekiel talks of God's *"Holy Name"*. An unclean spirit spoke with Jesus and called Him, *"the Holy One of God!"* (Mark 1:23-24) Jesus instructed His disciples in prayer the first thing that needed to be recognized in their approach is the holiness of God (Matt. 6:9) The apostle John heard the message from Jesus that *"God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."* (I John 1:5) The heavenly hosts bowed down before the throne proclaiming, *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty."* (Rev. 4:8)

We come to the assemblies, and sometimes we see things going on less than holy. They are entertaining or funny. Preachers have jokes or stories to start things off, using the world's idea of warming up a crowd. Where's the holiness of God? Sometimes we don't see ourselves in the presence of a holy God. Holiness produces reverence. Even the unclean spirit recognized that Jesus could destroy him. God is holy and our approach must be one of holiness and reverence. (Heb. 12:28-29)

To treat God as holy means not to treat Him as common. Many times we approach God as common, like man. He's not like us. The temple shows us that. There was a veil between God and man and only the high priest was allowed into the presence of God, once a year, and there had to be blood offered on behalf of the priest and the people. Every time individuals entered the presence of God without regard for His holiness, they were ultimately rejected and destroyed. Joshua reminded the people about the seriousness of treating God as holy. **"You will not be able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions or your sins."** (Joshua 24:19) God rejects people when they treat Him as something common and not revere His name.

How do you approach God? When we assemble, is it in our presence that we worship, or the presence of our holy Father? Do we realize that how we act and treat each other, we are dealing with God's holy temple (I Cor. 3:16-17), and showing our reverence (or lack of it) toward His name? How do you approach Him with your daily life? Do we take care of our actions and attitudes because we have been made holy by the blood of Christ? Our lives are not to be treated as common because of the holiness we have received from Jesus. To not take care reveals the knowledge we have of our Lord and Savior. If we don't treat our God as holy, then we will find ourselves rejected by His holiness. Think about it!!!

Brent