Holy, Holy, Holy

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isaiah 6:1). We often sing the song, *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Hymns for Worship, pg. 1). John furthers the fact of God's holiness by stating, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8) John's words continue in the first verse of the song, "Lord God Almighty". The words of the inspired writers help us understand the meaning behind the song, that God is completely separate and apart from anything sinful, evil, or corrupt.

God, being perfectly holy, expects His children to be holy as well. Peter writes, "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because is it written, "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15-16. Peter quotes Moses from Leviticus 19:2 where he writes, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy."

God accused the priests for not separating Him and disassociating with Him from the common. Ezekiel records, "Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them" (Ezekiel 22:26). Regarding God's, people overall, Ezekiel states, "You have despised My holy things and profaned My Sabbaths" (Ezekiel 22:8). Ezekiel declares God's judgment for their disregard for His holiness, "I will scatter you among the nations, disperse you throughout the countries, and remove your filthiness completely from you" (Ezekiel 22:15).

We as Christians must see and keep God as holy. Peter provides sound instruction regarding this, saying, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). The word sanctify defined means, set apart as or declare holy; consecrate (Dictionary Oxford Languages). Peter furthers by instructing us with, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, the He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).

As the people of God, Christians must remember that we are not common. In fact, Peter says that we were "chosen by God" to be "living stones" and a "holy priesthood" who should be offering ourselves up as "spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God" (1 Peter 2:5). We are His "chosen generation", "a royal priesthood", and "His own special people" (1 Peter 2:9). Let it be our purpose to offer holy praise and sacrifice, remembering that we "were once not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but have now obtained mercy" (1 Peter 2:10).