

Holiness: a primary requirement for worship

'...worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.' –Psalm 29:2

God is holy and He commands that we also be holy (1 Peter 1:16)

- It follows then that the man who will worship God must be one who pursues after holiness (Hebrews 12:14)
- Acceptable worship before God will proceed from the heart that fears Him and is constantly perfecting holiness (2 Corinthians 7:1)

What is it to be holy/Why do we need it since we are already made righteous by Christ:

Righteousness vs. Holiness

- i. Righteousness: an objective work executed on our behalf by Jesus Christ in making us right before God. This is a work Jesus Christ alone can do; no man will ever be made right in the sight of God outside the atoning work of the death and life of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- ii. Holiness lends itself more to our way of life and conduct once we've been declared righteous. We have a part to play in ensuring our lives are in line with the moral purity and commands of God: ***'but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct'*** (1 Peter 1:15). As with everything we attain to in the Christian life, this is only by the power of God.
- iii. Righteousness is many times attributed to man i.e. one who has been redeemed from sin or the 'fall'. Holiness (in conduct and being) is attributed not only to man but even the angels. Hence, we normally hear of the holy angels and almost never of the righteous angels

Can Satan (or any unholy being) worship God (or present acceptable worship to Him)?

- Every creature everywhere in creation will declare that Jesus Christ is Lord. Every creature will one day acknowledge the majesty of God (Philippians 2:10-11; Revelations 5:13)
- However, we see only the holy angels and the redeemed, including the twenty four elders, worship God (Revelations 5:14; 7:11, etc.)

***Let us fear God and daily perfect holiness without which no man shall be in the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14)*