

CouplesInBloom.com – Holiness Or Holy-ness

December 2012

What is holiness? When God says, ‘Be holy as I am holy’ ⇨ Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16, He literally speaks of thorough consecration. Without denying human failings, God explains Himself to us through **holiness**. It is about a pure heart relationship with God, **not** about measuring religious performance. It defines / separates true and false religion.

What is holy-ness? Holy-ness is perverting (cutting **holes** in / changing) what God said. Doing so erases one’s name from the Book of Life (Heaven’s roster) and indicts the one changing it to hell instead ⇨ Revelation 22:19. God gave us the capacity / free will to choose **holiness or holy-ness**; in this we determine our eternity... one choice at a time.

Christianity is intimate relationship with God, but unfortunately is accompanied by other perversions / counterfeits... all wearing the identically same title of “Christianity”:

1. **Holy-ness** (rampant today): ‘progressive’ (perverted / false) **self-gospel**; **not** about **God**, what He feels, or the intimate relationship He designed and longs for with us.
2. **Religiosity** (rampant yesterday): ‘legalistic’ Biblical **performance** to the neglect of the intimate relationship with God, **whom** the Bible is all about... incredible.
3. **Holiness** (what God has always asked for): **reciprocating God’s love with our pure consecration; humbly and violently rejoicing in His undeserved grace.**

Christmas is a great example that clarifies the differences between true and false religion:

1. **Holy-ness**: humanistic ‘spirit’ of Christmas limited to giving gifts to people.
2. **Religiosity**: self-righteous focus on theological dogma over Biblical obedience.
3. **Holiness**: overflow of worship to God for sending Jesus to be our Savior and Lord.

Have you ever asked God what He wants for Christmas? **Whose** birthday is it, anyway?? Amid this glaring audacity, God quietly waits for those who **choose to** love Him to seek and find His heart’s desire. The irony of the only God humbling Himself to be subject to our choice justifies those who reject His love to suffer in hell forever. God eternally deserves our reciprocated love and ever-increasing affection as ⇨ Deuteronomy 6:5 says:

- Give **affection** to God with all of our heart / *literally* from our **very core**.
- Give **affection** to God with all of our soul / *literally* our **entire vitality**.
- Give **affection** to God with all of our strength / *literally* with **vehemence**. The literal root word picture is **firebrand**: like a red hot iron that deeply sears leather.

Do you live this way? It is a **command**... not as religiosity, but as specifically functional to **intimacy** and the blessings of it, both for God and for us! How pathetic is the volatile resistance set against God, the owner of goodness, whose entire motivation is love!!! It is easy to understand both the glad excitement in **holiness** / authentic Christianity as well as the deservedness of eternal hell for rejecting such profound and almost unbelievable love.

To see what else is on God’s wish list this Christmas (and every day), **read** ⇨ Deuteronomy 6:5-25 **right now**. Then grow deeper in love with Him, the Lover of your soul by reading His Bible, talking and listening to Him often, and growing into the depths of intimacy. **Intimacy** is what Heaven (and Christian marriage, its copy) is all about.

Those who authentically **do this** find that **nothing better has-, does- or will- exist.** ♥