



PRAY FIRST - DAILY DEVOTIONAL

DAY 1

Monday, January 10, 2022

Our culture is good at chanting the message of “love.” You can’t go anywhere without hearing or reading someone say, “Love is love.” And Christians go along with it. We chant it with them, “love is love” and “love wins.” After all, isn’t this the message of the Bible? Doesn’t **1 John 4:8** tell us that “*God is love*”? It’s what we hear about in sermons and sing about in songs. We say, “love is all you need,” and as long as we love each other, and since God and Christianity are all about love – then what more do we need?

But the truth is, God and the Bible are not just all about love. There is another attribute of God that we often overlook, and without it, we can never love the way God loves. What is that attribute?

His Holiness.

Let me enlighten you for a moment. Jesus and the Bible are not just all about love! Read the Gospels and highlight every place Jesus talked about love. It wasn’t very often. If you go through the teachings of Jesus, you’ll find that he speaks about sin and unrighteousness five times more than he ever talked about love. Jesus was very condemning by today’s standards.

According to Jesus, love is not all you need.

You cannot understand the love of God or love like God without understanding that He is holy. Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 13:6** that love does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. He is talking about moral truth. Many today practice a love that is void of truth. The whole reason Jesus calls people to repentance is that it’s the loving thing to do. Yet, we so often look past sin in our lives and others and stamp it with “*I love you no matter what.*” When we do, we can end up “loving people to hell.”

God’s holiness clarifies how He loves and how we should love.

Jesus tells us to “*Love God and love our neighbor*” (**Mark 12:30-31**) and the way to do that is to understand His holiness. God’s holiness tells us and shows us how to love so that people can be free from sin and connected to God.

Now, before you get defensive or think that these next 21 days are going to be all about a mean moral and angry God. Take a moment and think about how God is holy. You may not fully understand his holiness yet, but my prayer is that you will as you continue through these 21 days of devotions. So, be patient. I believe you will gain a deeper understanding of God's love for you and how you and I are to love those around us. You are in line for a breakthrough. Don't resist God's holiness. Ask Him to reveal it to you.

As He does, you'll never be the same.

READ: Exodus 33:12-23

ASK:

- What jumps out at you about the presence of God in this passage?
- Why couldn't Moses see God's face?
- What does this story tell us about the holiness of God?

JOURNAL (Reflect):

- When was the last time you thought about the holiness of God?
- Lord, why is understanding your holiness so important for loving myself and those around me?
- Lord, what is one thing I can do today to live with a greater understanding of your holiness?

PRAY:

- What area of your life do you need to become more holy? Ask God to show you and then pray about it.
- Who in your life needs to experience the grace and truth of God? Pray for them by name.