



Paradox
Truth that Breaks the Rules

Holy Human
1 Peter 1:15-16

This Fall we'll be looking at paradoxes that Jesus proclaims—statements that seem absurd or self-contradicting, but when investigated prove to be true. Our pastors will try their best to make clear the complicated paradoxes, and we'll be able to answer our questions and process through them in small groups!

SERMON SUMMARY

¹⁵But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:15-16

Paradox: I am a human called to be holy like God.

Holiness of God

- Holiness is used to describe God's uniqueness or distinctiveness.
 - God is separate and different from people (Exodus 15:11)
 - Nowhere else in the Bible is anything used to describe God to the third degree ("holy, holy, holy") (Revelation 4:8-11)
- Holiness is used to describe God's separation from all that is impure.
 - At times unholiness (sin) can look fun or attractive, but it keeps us from God
 - Sin prevents us from being in the presence of God

My Holiness

- Holiness is conformity to God's character, both in uniqueness and separation.
 - *Holiness is not a standard to be reached, but a reality to be lived out.*
- For followers of Jesus, we have been justified, or declared, not guilty before God because of Jesus' death on the cross. When God looks at us, He doesn't see our sin, but the holiness of Jesus. (1 Peter 1:17-19)
- We're holy positionally, now we need to live it out practically.
 - Charles Spurgeon said, "Holiness is not the way to Christ, Christ is the way to holiness."
 - We need to be consumed with the holiness of God on my behalf to live out our holiness.
- ***Here is why having good theology is so important – because the command to "be holy" isn't about trying harder – it's about pressing into Jesus and living out what is already true about you.***
 - "Let your life be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness." (The Message paraphrase of 1 Peter 1:15-16)

Holiness Questions

- Am I living **distinctly**?
 - Are you pointing others to Jesus as you live “set apart”?
 - Are you living distinctly in your priorities?
 - Does your distinctiveness bring healing or hurt to others?
- Am I viewing **sin** correctly?
 - We can't be holy and take sin lightly
 - “When a man is getting better, he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse, he understands his badness less and less.” (CS Lewis)

Conclusion

- Holiness is conforming to the character of God We don't naturally drift towards or fall into holiness. It takes work. Just as someone's character rubs off on you the more time you spend with them, rub shoulders with God this week. Let the holiness He has declared about you rub off on you.

DISCUSSION**Reminders for small group leaders:**

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. **Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!**
- Set aside a time to **pray** for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
- Regularly **recap** how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
- The teaching happened on Sunday at church. **The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?** Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.

RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- *What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?*
- *What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?*
- *How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?*

QUESTIONS

Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!

Getting to know you

- What are examples in our world today of unholiness? Of holiness?
- What do you think of or what feelings come up when you read that God wants us to “be holy as I am (He is) holy”?
- Before you heard the sermon, how would you have described “holiness”?

Into the Bible/Application

- **Read 1 Peter 1:15-16.**
 - What are the two ways holiness reveals God’s character?
 - *Holiness reveals God’s uniqueness or distinctiveness*
 - *Holiness reveals God’s separation from impurity*
 - What was the definition of holiness explained on Sunday? Is this different than the way you’ve described holiness before?
 - *Holiness is conformity to God’s **character**, both in uniqueness and separation.*
 - Why would God ask us to be holy, or to live out His character?
 - *We can show that we’re unique and separate from those around us, they’ll see Jesus in us, etc*
- Is it easy or difficult for you to live a holy life? Why?
 - *People don’t drift towards holiness; it takes work!*
 - *The unholy life looks more fun or attractive*
- How have you typically tried to live a holy life?
 - On Sunday it was said that, “Holiness is not a standard to be reached, but a reality to be lived out...It isn’t about trying harder to be holy, but pressing into Jesus and living out what is true about you.” To live a holy life, we need to start with Jesus.
 - How does this change the way that you live out a holy life?
- **Read 1 Peter 1:17-19 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.**
 - According to these passages, what is the starting point for living a holy life?
 - *Knowing that Jesus took on our unholiness so that we could become holy. We have been justified, or declared, we are not guilty and forgiven of sin.*
 - *Because of this, then we can live out our holiness. We press more and more into Jesus and live out what is already true of us.*
 - Charles Spurgeon said, “Holiness isn’t the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness.” What does this mean?

(I don’t know if this is a good set of questions. -Elena)

- **Read 1 Peter 1:14.**
 - *But sometimes (a lot of times we disobey). He wants us to be holy. What does God do when we disobey?*
 - **Now read Hebrews 12:3-11.**
 - *What does God do when we disobey Him?*

- *We can go through trials that God uses to disciplines us, just like how a good parent would discipline their child! (vs. 7)*
- *Parents discipline only their children. God disciplines His children. If you don't experience His discipline, then you're not His child (vs 8)*
- *We respect our parents when they discipline us. How much more should we submit to God as our Father when He disciplines us (vs 9)*
- Why does God discipline us? (vs 14)
 - *For our good, **that we can share in his holiness!***
 - *It can be painful rather than pleasant, but it yields righteousness (vs 11)*
- **Read Isaiah 6:1-5.**
 - How did Isaiah react when he encountered the holiness of God? *He cried out in an emotional moment. He realized immediately how sinful and unholy he was compared to God.*
 - As you've grown as a Christian, how has your view of sin changed? As time goes on, do you see the evilness of your heart and the depravity of your sin more and more, or not? Why do you think that is?
 - Have you grown in viewing your sin correctly? Why or why not?
- **Read 1 Peter 1:14.** *Notice that Peter reminds us that we are to God's children. God wants us to be obedient children and live out what He says.*
 - Look back on your life. Are there ways that you've seen yourself grow in holiness, or conformity to God's character? Are you living distinctly?
 - Are there areas you are still conforming to the evil desires you had before you started following Jesus? Are there areas of your life you're not living distinctly?
- What is the thing you can do this week to live holy? *Rub shoulders with God. -Bryan Bernard*
How can we as a small group help each other do that?

PRAY

Pray that God would change our hearts so that we want to be conformed to His character

Pray for an accurate view of sin

Pray that God would reveal areas in our lives where we're not living distinctly

Pray and thank God for His holiness and His character, and that He wants to have a relationship with us even though we're far from being holy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

College students

Epic this Thursday will be at MU13 at 7:30pm. We'll continue our series on *Misconceptions of Christianity* with unpacking the misconception, "I need a spiritual high to grow."

Baptisms are happening on Sunday, November 18! If you're a follower of Jesus and have never been baptized, take this step of obedience and faith! Talk to Elena or Bryan for more details or to ask questions by November 7.

Women

Table for 5 is happening for all women high school and up on November 17 at 11:30am. What's Table for 5? It's a chance to gather with other women from our church over lunch at a restaurant in Corvallis...but you won't know who's on your table or where you're going until you arrive at the Welcome Center on November 17! Sign up at church on Sunday. Questions? Ask Elena Chin.

All church

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If you want to receive the **weekly email newsletter with church announcements/news**, visit <http://www.grantavebc.org/news--events.html> to sign up!