

# G:love 6

Focused Living Ministries

## The 'god' We Want Or The God Who Is

A 6 old boy sat during the church service trying to understand what was going on. Suddenly the minister prayed, "Lord, without you we are but dust..." (Ps 103:14) The curious boy suddenly blurted out with a loud voice, "Dad, what is butt dust?" Church was pretty much over at that point! Why is it healthy for a man who wants to respond like a glove to God's hand first understand that he is 'but dust'? (Gen 2:7; Is 40:12, 15; Job 10:8-9). How is this a foundation for real humility? What does God think of us as dust? (John 3:16; Rom 5:8; 8:38-39).



(Exodus 3:1-9) Because Moses did not have a good understanding at first of God's real character, he pridefully committed murder thinking he was doing God a favor (Ex 2:11-15). So God sent him into the wilderness for 40 years to tenderize/ humble his heart. 4 decades later the Lord interrupts his life to draw a clear picture of His true character. Moses had fallen into the trap of following the god we want instead of the God who has clearly revealed Himself. Moses was now ready to start the process of learning to **humbly respond to God's hand** in **FAITH** rather than pridefully reacting in the **FLESH**. Once God had Moses' undivided attention, what was the very first character trait He had to drill down into Moses' pride filled heart and why is it the core of God's revealed character(Ex 3:5-6)? Why is understanding God as holy the foundation of understanding all His other characteristics?

This is the very first mention of 'holy' in the Bible! Gen 1:1. Telescope. 'God' = **El** (god) + **ohim** (plural). Trinity, plentitude of power and multitude majesty in His full character. Gen 2:4; Ex 3:14. Microscope. "LORD God" = Jehovah = YHWH/Yahweh = Holy God. Perfectly pure and set apart! **Holiness** is His main character from which all the others emanate (separate, apart, clean, above). So deeply did Moses respect God's holiness that he removed the vowels and pronounced it YHWH (Yahweh). Holiness is not adherence to a set of rules it is responding to the character of God. Why is a reverent understanding of God's holiness absolutely non-negotiable as a glove (Husband? Father? Business leader?) who longs to respond to God's hand?

What is the connection between **humility** and God's **holiness**?

(Ex 20:8-11; Lev 11:45; 19:1-4; 20:7; Is 6:1-8; Matt 6:9-13; Eph 1:4; II Tim 1:9; I Pet 1:9-10; II Pet 3:10-12) How important is God's holiness to God? Here are just a few of the 581 times 'holy' is mentioned in Scripture?

(Ex 3:2-4) When God gets your attention, pay attention! Where is God getting your attention? Are you "turning aside" to hear what He is teaching you? What powerful 3 word prayer did Moses use? (Gen 22:1, 11; 46:1-2; I Sam 3:4-9; Isaiah 6:8)

(Isaiah 6:1-9; II Sam 6:1-9; Judges 6:1-27; Luke 5:1-10) Again, why did the Lord have to teach the great prophet Isaiah, Gideon, King David and the Apostle Peter about His holiness before He could use them significantly?



(Num 20:1-13) Like us, Moses often forgot God's holiness. One time he became very frustrated when the people needed water and complained bitterly instead of calling upon God. God told Moses to **speak** to the rock in order to yield water so God would get the glory. But, in prideful anger, Moses **struck** the rock instead in effect trying to steal God's glory. According to verse 12, what was the core that he still needed to learn before the Lord? Why is it that when we forget God's holiness we **react** to circumstances rather than **respond** to His hand?

**ASSIGNMENT** In prep for next week...humble yourself before God's holiness! Slip off your shoes/socks in the privacy of your own home, get on your face before your Creator God and, like Moses, "make haste to bow down and worship" (Ex 34:8)! Spend a few minutes in utter silence before Him (Psalm 46:10) to acknowledge His absolute and infinite majesty, sovereignty, perfection, purity, glory, might, wisdom, judgment, awe, and power as you humbly consider His deafening holiness which drowns out all other voices/idols which tug at your heart. Finish with a heartfelt prayer of conviction. (Lev 20:26)

**TAG TEAMS** What principle will help you to worship (respond to) the God who is rather than the god(s) you want? Why?