



Holy: God's Holiness Our Freedom February 26, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Joel Schmidgall & Pastor Marion Mason

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-15

Sermon Overview: An attribute is not something God does; it is who He is. God is holy. Come to God, put on His holiness – compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, peace, and love – and find freedom where He's planted you.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. God is holy. How does Isaiah 6:1-5 picture God's holiness?
2. Holiness is Christlikeness. What aspects of how Jesus walked and talked do you admire?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. Colossians 3:12 instructs us, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, to clothe ourselves with "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." Think about the environment in which God has placed you. In that environment, what characteristics of God's holiness do you need to put on to operate in God's freedom? What qualities or habits might you need to "take off" before putting on God's holiness?
2. Anointing oil comes from pressed olives – not whole, uncrushed ones. Pastor Joel said, "You can't anoint others with your oil if you haven't been pressed." In what ways are you currently being "pressed?" How have you drawn nearer to God during this season? What do you believe God is trying to teach you during this refining period?
3. Extending forgiveness to others demonstrates your understanding and acceptance that the Lord has forgiven you. Forgiveness forgoes the fleshly desire to "get even" and frees

you from cultivating a spirit of bitterness and resentment. Colossians 3:13 encourages us to “bear with each other and forgive one another.” Can you think of a scenario in which you are currently holding onto bitterness against someone? What’s one practical step you could take today to begin the process of forgiveness? What blessings can you pray over that person right now?

4. Paul instructs us to let the Word take up permanent residence in our hearts (Col. 3:16). Psalm 119:11 says, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against thee.” Since love is the virtue that binds all of the virtues together (Col 3:14), what Scriptures (or hymns) can you meditate on today? How can meditating on love enable you to clothe yourself in the characteristics of God’s holiness from Colossians 3:12? How does love bind these characteristics together?

Digging Deeper:

- Join us in these 3 Lenten Challenges:
 1. **Personal Prayer** - grab a kneeler pad and make an altar. Start and end your day in prayer.
 2. **Corporate Prayer** - join us for House of Prayer, Thursdays at 7:14 pm at the Capital Turnaround, and enjoy dinner on us! / Or plug in through Upper Zoom Prayer, Thursdays at 7 am.
 3. **Weekly Fast** - sign up by texting “FAST” to 844-504-0861. Fast food or an activity for 24 hours, once a week.
- Use this prayer for the week as we revel in and enjoy the magnitude of God’s holiness at work in us and around us.

Prayer: Lord, Isaiah 6:3 says, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the whole earth is full of His glory. Today, I am asking for your glory to come into my most impossible situations, into my losses, and I invite you to heal, save and deliver me. Would you recenter my gravity? Holy Spirit, would you fill me up with the holiness of God, so I can be fully who you created me to be? In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Practical Application:

- Serve at the Easter Sunrise service, April 8 & 9, at ncc.re.serveatsunrise
- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the NCC app to find our plan).
- Small groups just kicked off!! Jump into a small group this semester. They are all listed at ncc.re/groups.