

Life Group Notes
Sunday 17 September 2017

Speaker: Sean Green

Title: The Holy Love of God

Passage: Isaiah 6:1-6

Isaiah received his commission in a most dramatic way: He sees Seraphs (mighty angelic being) who although they dare not look themselves, declare the infinite holiness of God. Yet Isaiah glimpses the LORD, falls to the ground and declares 'I am doomed' (he expects to die because of God's Holiness and his own sinfulness). But far from perishing he receives grace, his guilt is taken away, sin atoned for and he is commissioned by God.

It is helpful to remind ourselves of the holiness of God. The God of the Bible is Holy and not like us. He is self-existent, self-sufficient and self-sustaining. He is as truly three, as He is one and all three persons of God are involved in Creation. He is unchanging in morale consistency & perfection. God is infinite, bodiless, present everywhere, and is eternal. He is aware of every moment there ever was, is and shall be. He is purposeful, powerful, undeniable and does as He wishes.

God is transcendent over, and immanent in, His world. He is impassible, meaning we can't inflict pain on him but He can enter ours. God is Love. He is sacrificial love. His giving is only prompted by goodwill. God is holy and pure, and therefore He has an appropriate hatred of moral evil with an associated judicial anger. God is Holy Love and holiness always qualifies divine love.

This Holy, sacrificial love, is supremely displayed in the giving on the true and greater burning coal. Jesus was the burning coal given to take away our guilt by atoning for our sin. We can now behold the Holiness of God.

God's Holy Love produces a profound effect within it's recipients. The Spirit of God will bring conviction of sin, leading to confession and repentance. This leads to the life & love of God flowing in our lives bringing us through to true freedom.

Suggested questions:

How would you describe the Holiness (His otherliness, not like us) of God?

Isaiah spoke of 'unclean lips'. How would you describe your shortfall from holiness?

Holy Love inevitably brings conviction of Sin but not condemnation. Why and what are you going to do next?