

THE HOLINESS OF GOD

It is difficult to understand how a “God of Love” can allow evil and suffering to exist seemingly unchecked in our world. Understanding the role of Holiness in how God’s *action* or *inaction* is determined answers this often asked question.

Holiness is one of the Attributes of God. The Attributes of God are those features which define His existence and make up His divine character. (Psalm 11:4; Isaiah 6:3)

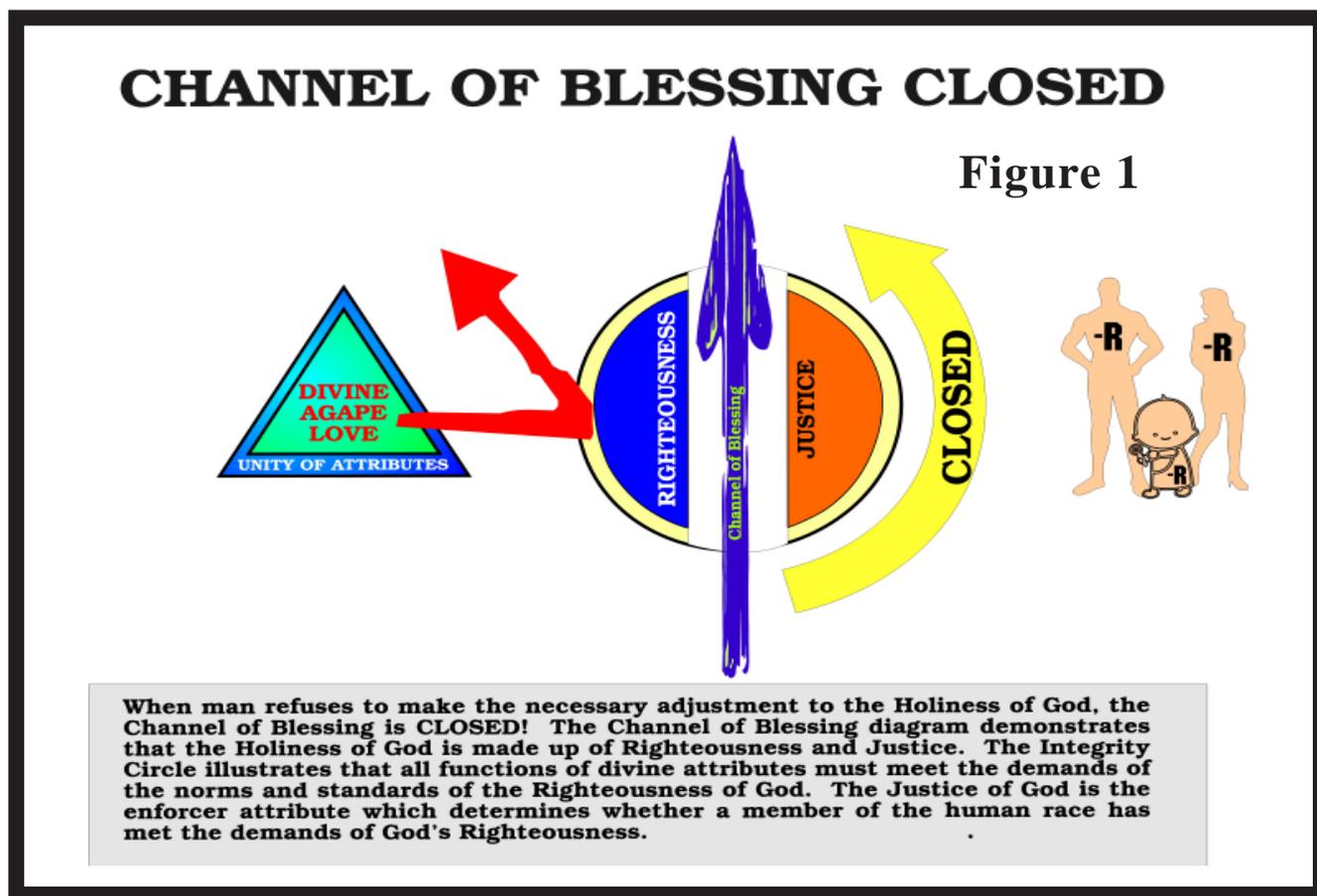
Holiness is a moral attribute of God in that it defines what God’s law demands of and enforces on man’s behavior. Holiness consists of two other sub-attributes — Righteousness and Justice.

Righteousness is a Biblical term, based on both Hebrew and Greek words, which refers to the norms and standards by which a *judge thinks and applies* the law. (Psalm 96:13) Justice is a legal term and refers to the manner in which divine government operates. These terms together mean that God consistently acts in total fairness in His application of Divine Law to members of the human race. The Scripture states, “I judge, and My judgment is just.” (John 5:30)

Holiness is the divine attribute of God which governs the activity of all other attributes of God. Holiness defines the conditions under which attributes such as Love, Mercy, and Affection, etc., may pour out blessings on mankind. Holiness is the combined result of God’s own Justice and Righteousness working together to regulate God’s actions toward man. Holiness, therefore, is the sum of all divine excellence insuring consistency and faithfulness in God’s actions toward man.

Therefore, Divine Holiness is the Biblical term for God’s actions toward man being governed and regulated by the norms and standards of His Righteousness and Justice. Because God cannot become less than absolute perfect Righteousness, He cannot change and adjust to nor accept the unrighteousness of man. The Scripture describes the guidelines by which God acts toward mankind in simple carpenter terms: “**AND I WILL MAKE JUSTICE THE MEASURING-LINE, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS THE LEVEL...**” (Isaiah 28:17) The Hebrew term for “righteousness” (hq'd'c. - Pronounced - tsedaqah) means “to conform to a moral standard” and defines the expectations of divine law to which man must measure up. The Hebrew term for “justice” (jp;v' - Pronounced - shaphat)) means the “exercise of the administration of justice” and defines how God administers all divine law in absolute fairness. **These two terms are used consistently throughout Scripture to define the principle that all God’s actions toward mankind are governed by whether or not man conforms to God’s norms and standards of Righteousness.**

Therefore, Man must adjust to the Righteousness of God. This is manifested by the fact that Righteous laws are given to mankind. Man is expected to adjust to God by obedience to God's laws. These laws are then enforced in absolute fairness — Justice. This means that because of Holiness, God will not and cannot compromise His eternal consistency and fairness. **God cannot compromise His integrity by acting arbitrarily out of love or wrath in such a manner that would compromise His own norms and standards of Righteousness or His absolute Justice — fairness.** Justice safeguards God's perfect integrity by preventing any human scheme or works from penetrating the perfect standards established by God's Righteousness. Integrity, by definition, means not going back on one's word or norms and standards. God is perfect in His integrity. Therefore, God's interaction with mankind is strictly governed by the relationship of Justice and Righteousness establishing a Channel of Blessing. (Figure 1)



The Channel of Blessing is the avenue through which Love, Mercy, and Affection is free to flow to mankind. God's essence is composed of many perfect and eternally consistent attributes. Among these attributes are Love, Mercy, and Affection. God's manifestation of Love, Mercy, and Affection toward man must first pass through the Holiness Channel of Blessing in order to determine whether or not God's uncompromising nature will allow interaction with man in a given situation. Holiness will not allow God's attributes to flow freely to man without first analyzing how a particular man measures up to His Divine Righteous norms and standards.

An example of how Holiness acts within the Channel of Blessing to safeguard the unchanging consistency and fairness of God is when God sees a man who is suffering. As a merciful, loving and affectionate God, His compassionate nature desires to relieve the man's distress. However,

the flow of relief toward the man must first pass through the Channel of Blessing where the man's attitude toward God's Plan is judged against God's Righteous norms and standards. This means that mankind must adhere to the restrictions of Righteousness in order for the Justice of God to allow Mercy, Love and Affection to flow. (Figure 2)

CHANNEL OF BLESSING OPEN

Figure 2



When man makes the necessary adjustment to the Holiness of God, the Channel of Blessing is OPENED! The Channel of Blessing diagram demonstrates that God remains eternally the same -- Righteous & Justice! God cannot change and adjust to man -- Man must adjust to God! Man may make the necessary adjustment to God's Holiness ONLY through a nonmeritorious faith response to the Grace Provisions in the Phase I and/or Phase II Grace-By-Pass. *

It is difficult, from a human emotional perspective, to understand how a "Loving God" could observe a person suffering without stepping in to offer relief. However, the concept of Holiness safeguarding God's Integrity says that He cannot act in a manner contrary to what Righteousness demands. God's Love and desire to help the man maladjusted to the norms and standards of Righteousness cannot override Holiness and act independently of the restrictions of the Channel of Blessing. For God to provide relief to the maladjusted man would constitute an inconsistency or flaw in God's character and would negate His deity. While imperfect human parents sometimes show favoritism toward their children or even go against their own rules, Holiness will not and cannot allow God to violate His perfect integrity.

In order for God's attributes to flow toward man in the form of blessing, God must Judge the man to be adjusted to the perfect demands of Righteousness. God's Justice makes "showing respect to persons" an impossibility. (I Peter 1:17) The Scripture states, "I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons." (Acts 10:34-35) Only a man adjusted to the demands of God's

Righteousness can be targeted by the Love, Mercy and Affection of God through the Channel of Blessing. The norms and standards of Righteousness to which man must adjust in order to receive divine blessing are recorded in the Bible. These are conveyed to man through the teaching of Bible Doctrine. (Isaiah 55:8-11; Philippians 2:5; I Corinthians 2:16) Therefore, it is through the study and learning of Bible Doctrine that man may come to a knowledge of the norms and standards of Righteousness. If a man is under the authority of God's norms and standards of Righteousness, Justice can then, and only then, allow Love, Mercy and Affection to flow unhindered to relieve the man's suffering. The flow of blessings may be manifest by the pouring out of both spiritual and material benefits. By comparison, men who choose to be under the Evil policy and control of Satan may experience various forms of prosperity, but such prosperity is short lived and invokes the wrath of God. (Psalm 34:16; Isaiah 13:11)

In summary, God's many attributes are regulated in their manifestation toward man by Holiness acting within the Channel of Blessing. Holiness is the combination of God's Righteousness and Justice. The Eternal Integrity of God is maintained by the consistency of God to not act in any manner toward man which would compromise the perfect norms and standards of His Righteousness. The Righteousness of God is eternal, therefore, it can in no way allow itself to accept the unrighteousness of mankind. Justice, the other half of Holiness, disallows any personal and special relationship between God and man, except on the basis of man's adjustment to the Righteousness of God. This basis for the promise of blessing to mankind is stated in the words of the Lord Jesus Christ: "*But seek first His kingdom and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.*" (Matthew 6:33)