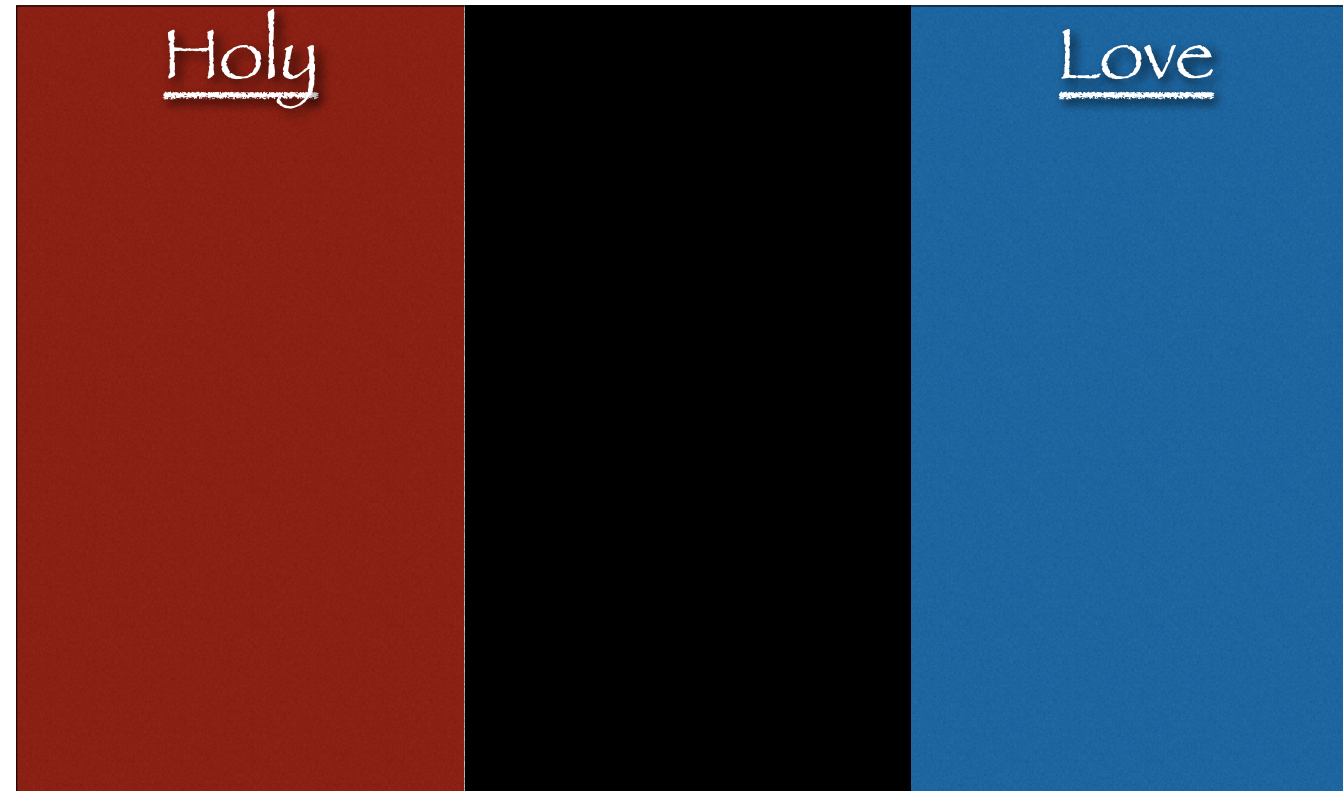


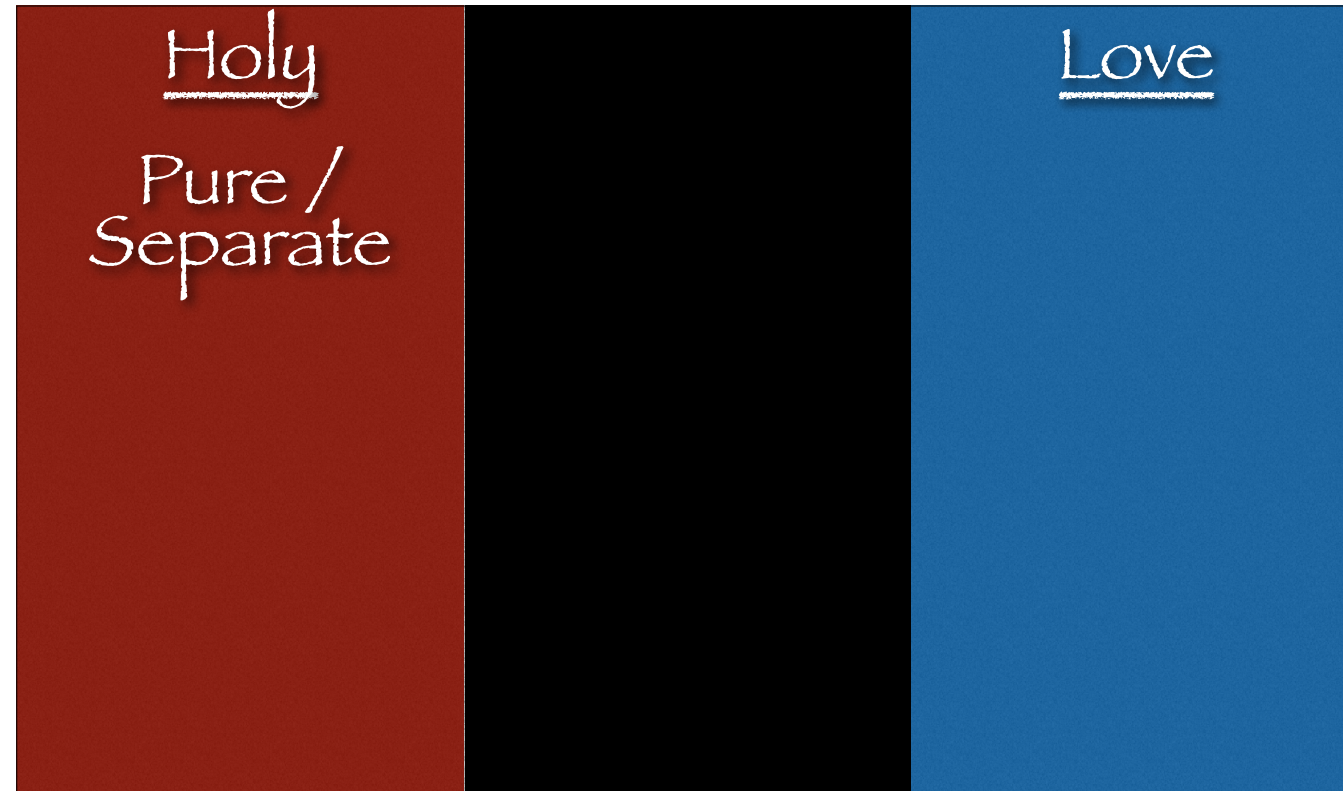
# Holy Love



"God is for me!"  
Psalm 56:9

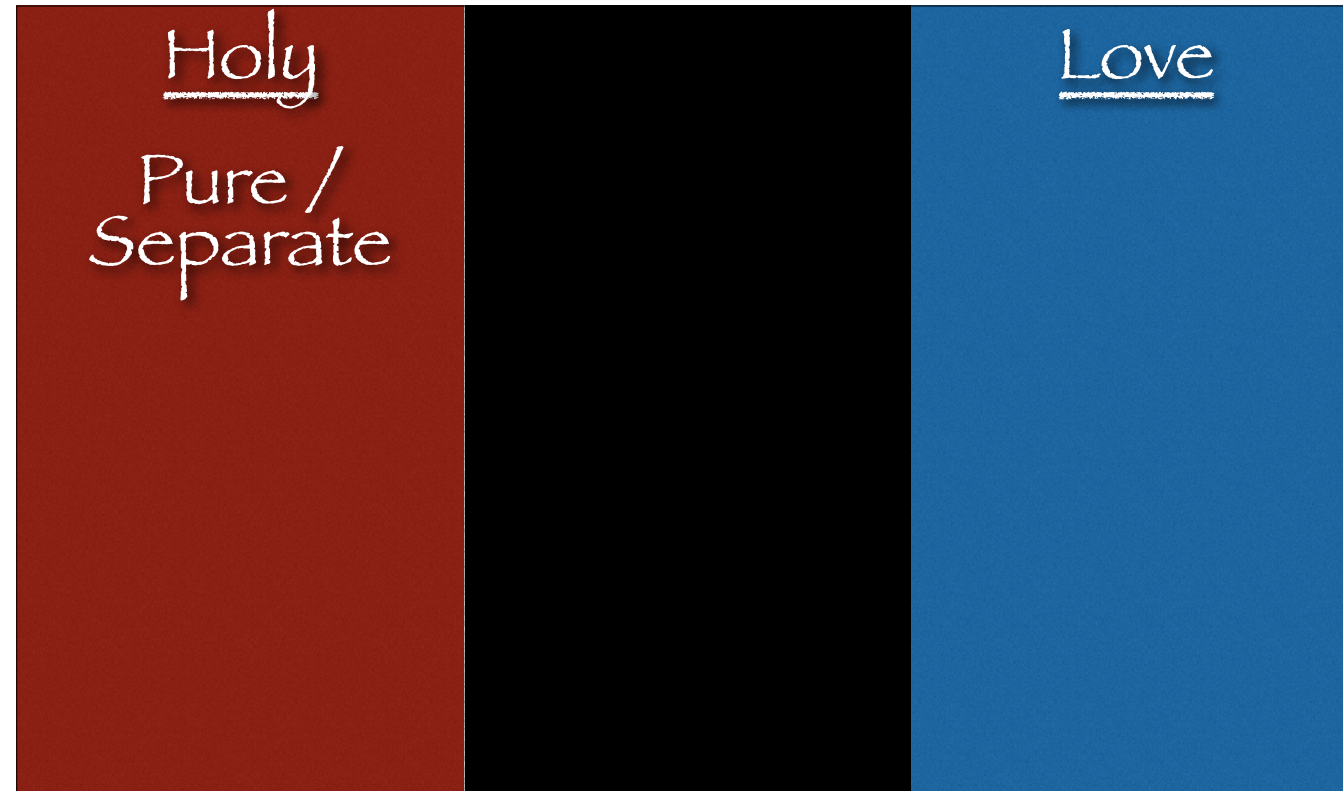


The seeming contradiction most of us struggle with between God's holiness and God's love.



For most people, the idea of “holy” is almost exclusively: pure, or separated.

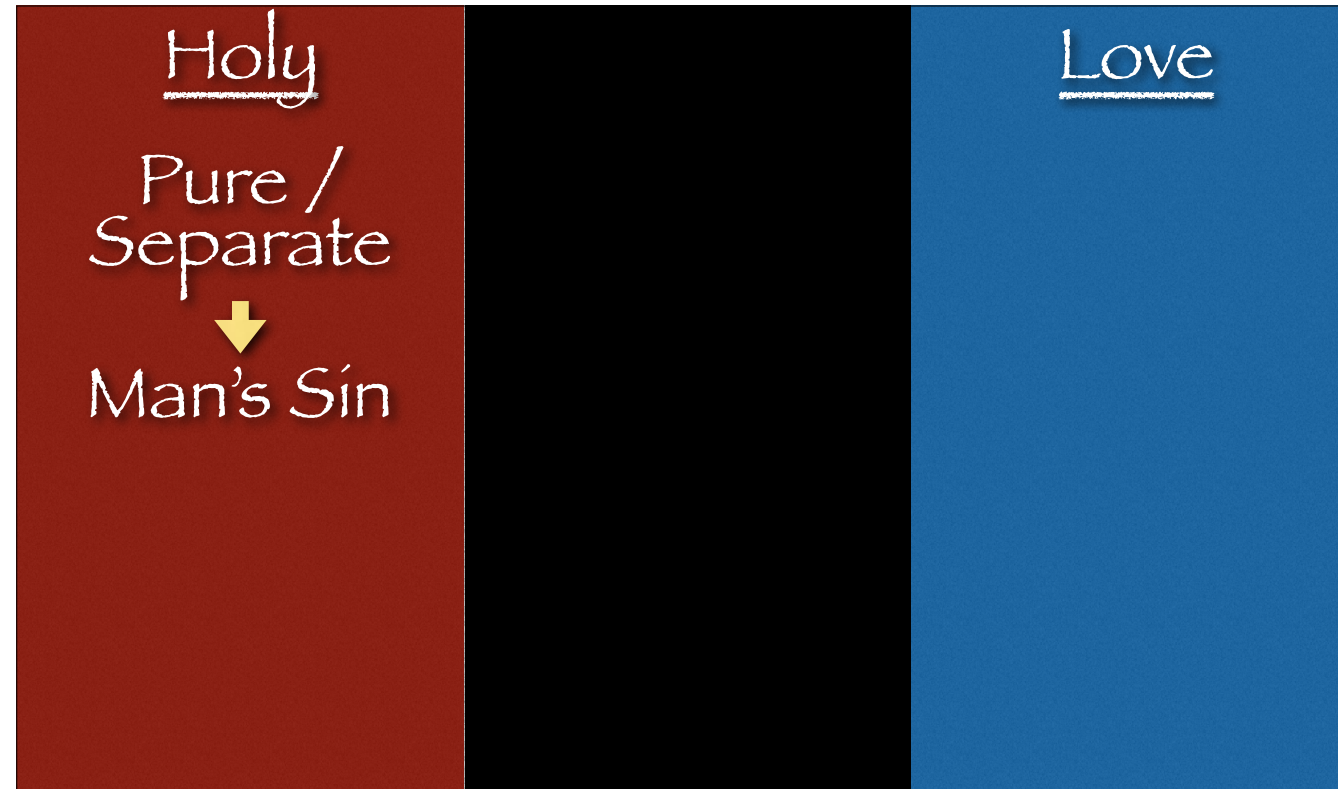
Of course, this is true.



God's holiness is speaking of the fact that He is pure, clean, righteous in a way we are not.

It's not the complete meaning of holy, but for most this it.

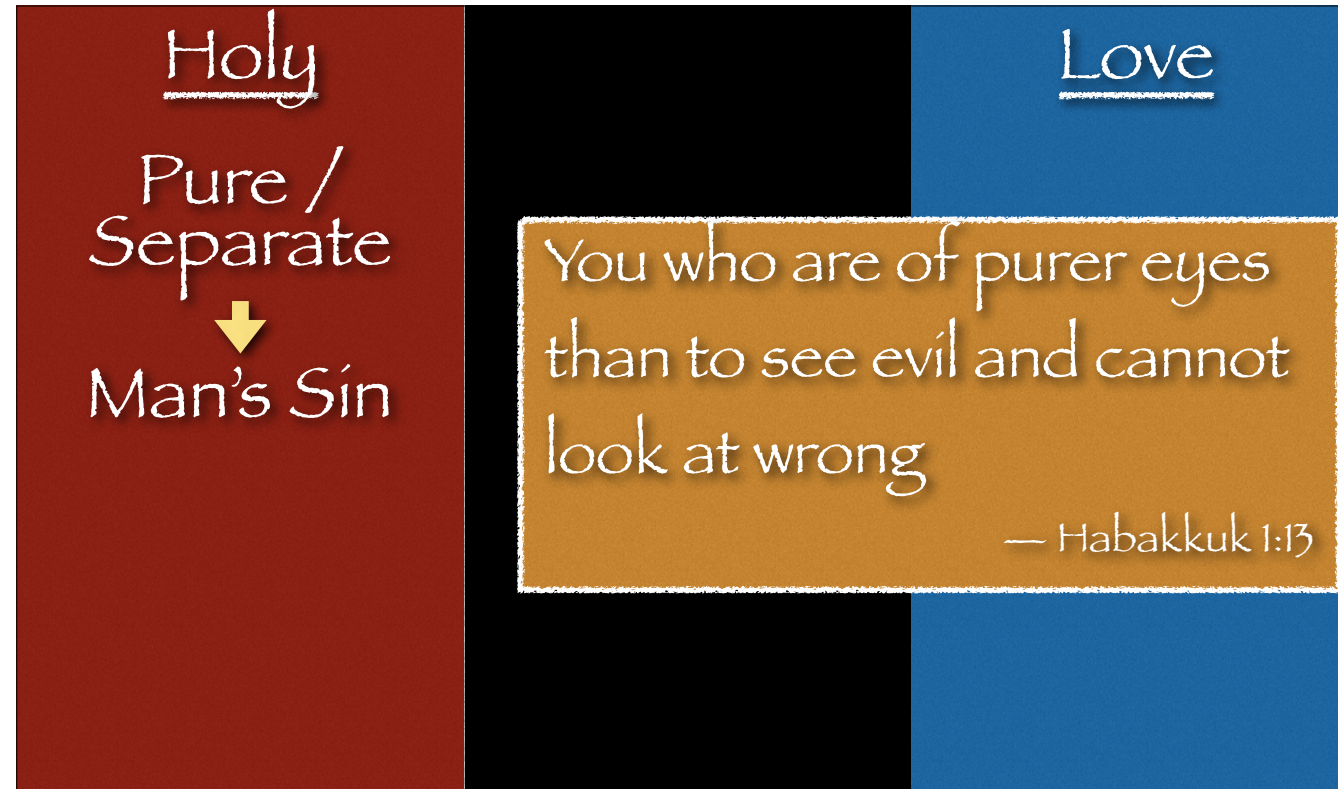




In contrast with God's holiness is man's sinfulness.

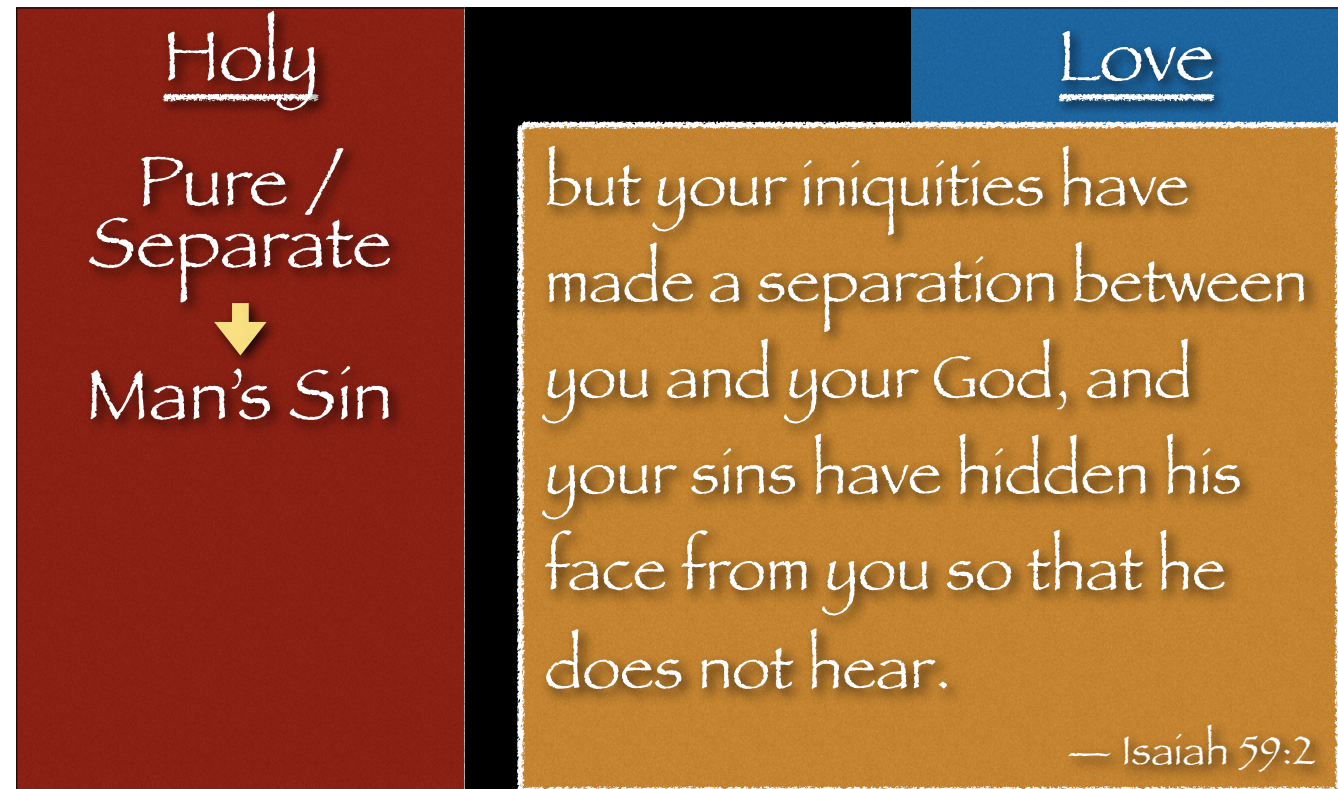
How does a holy God deal with sin in those He created?

Habakkuk 1:13



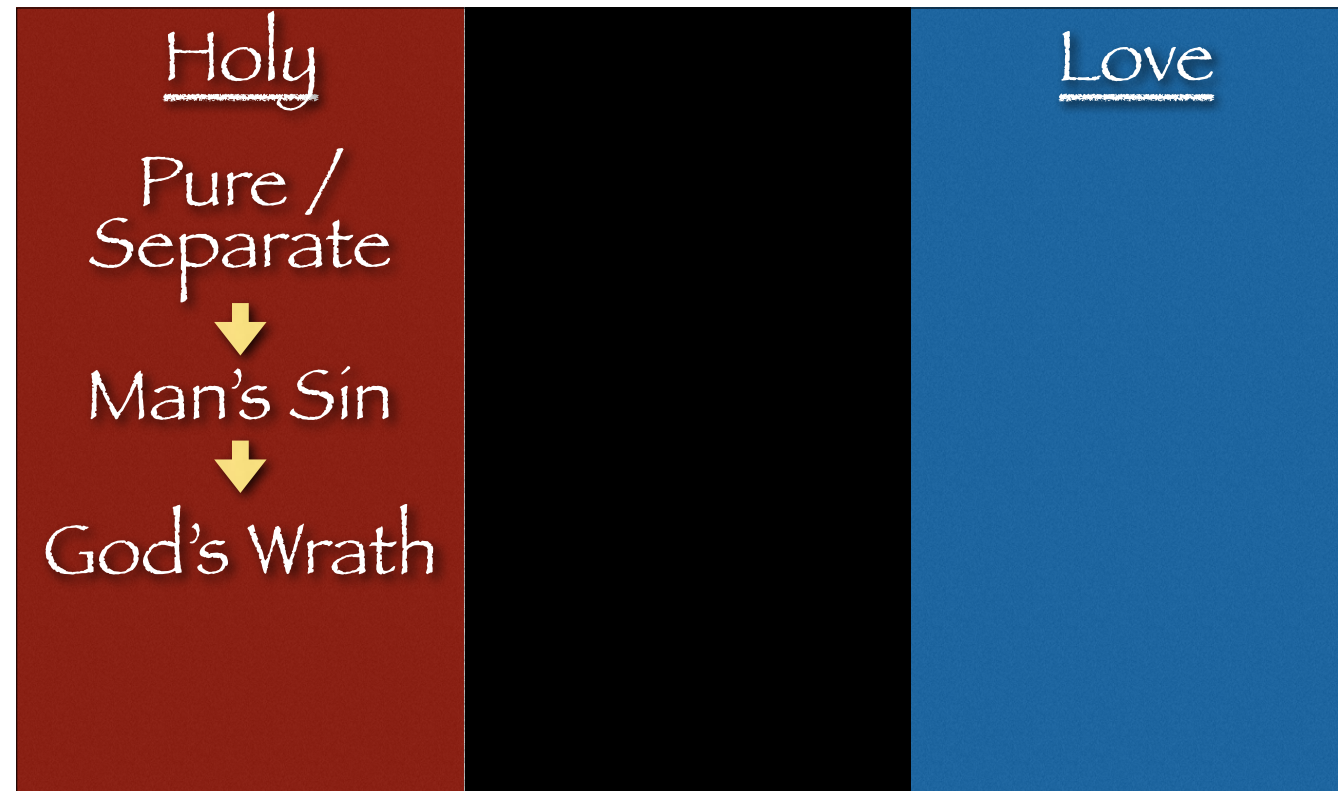
Habakkuk 1:13: "You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong"

God is pure ...



God is pure ... man is impure.

Isaiah 59:2: "your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear"

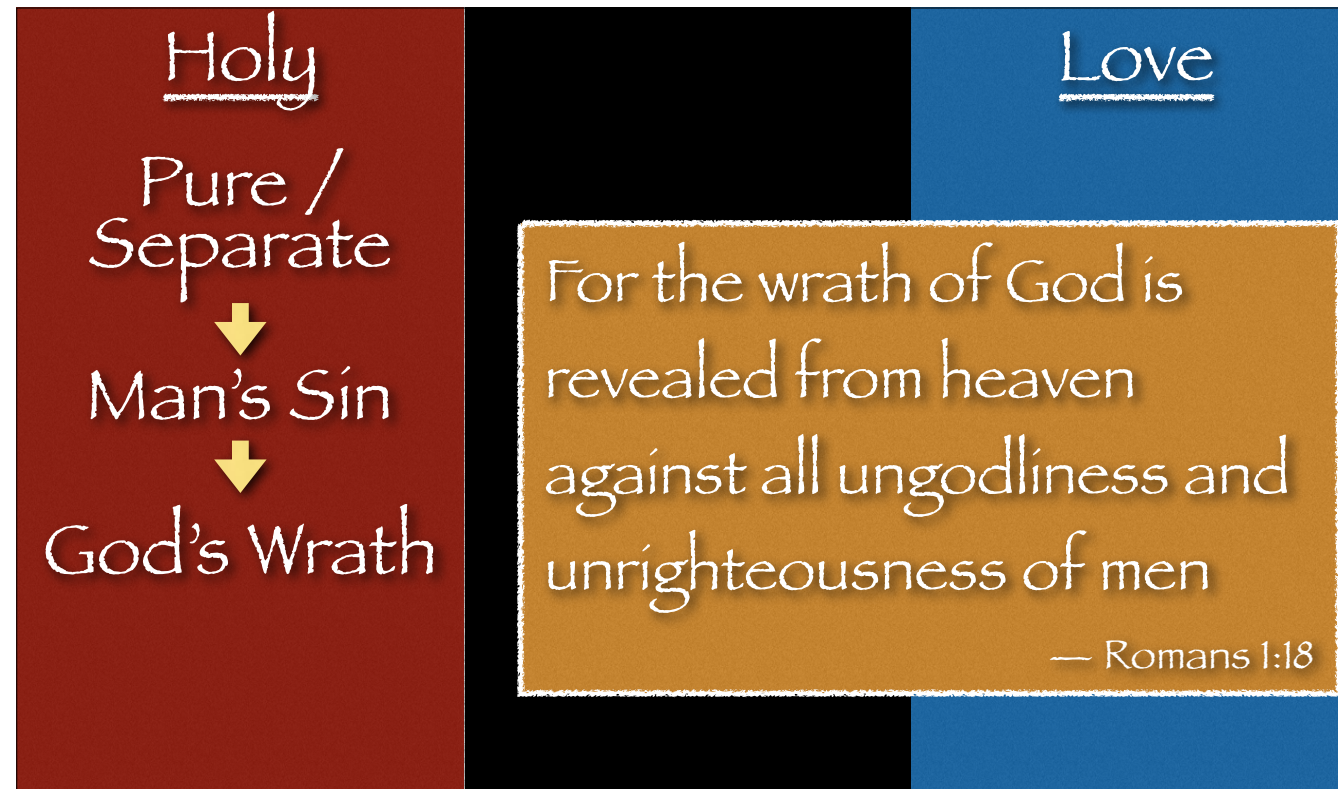


God's wrath is his response to man's sin.

Romans 1:18



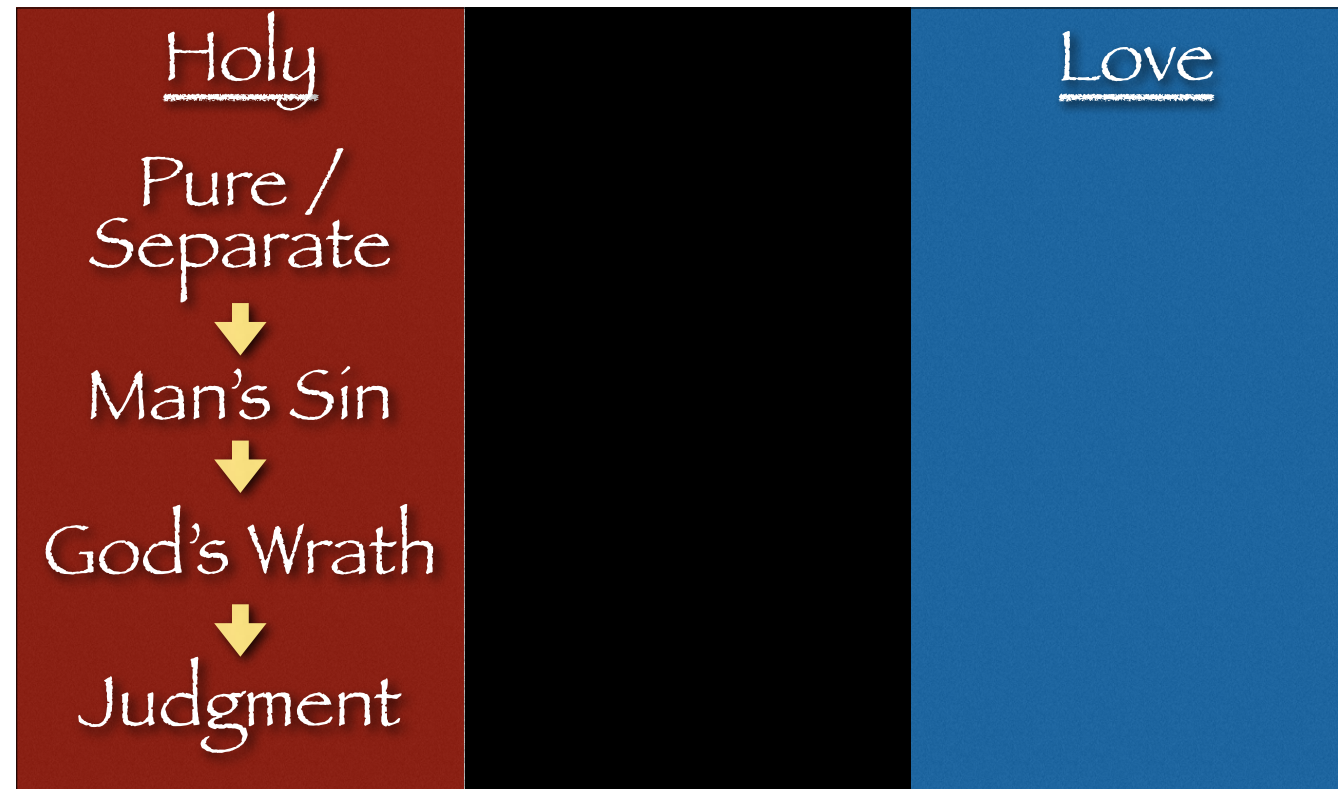
Romans 1:18: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.



In past lessons, remember that wrath is not just God being angry for the sake of being angry; it's not selfish at all.

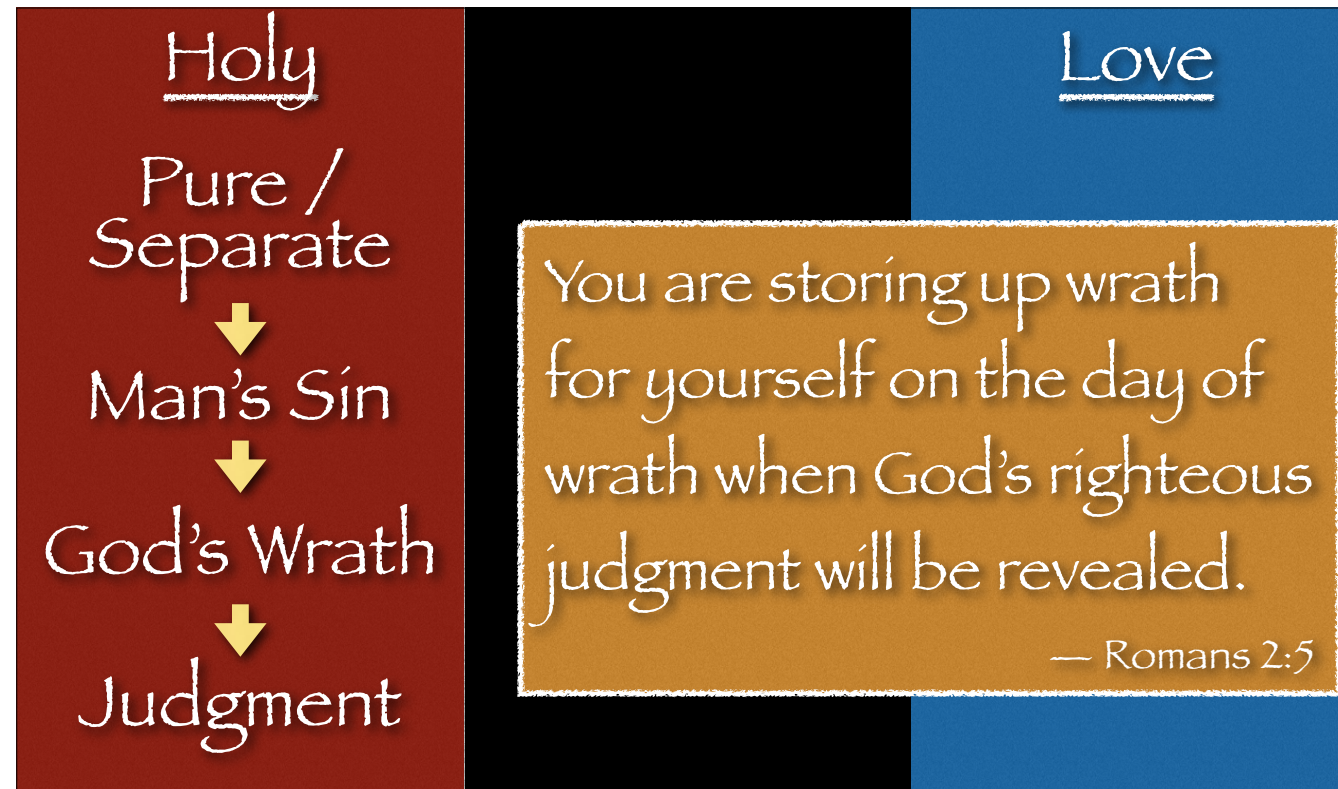
God's wrath is certainly against sin, but it's also intended to make us aware of our sin and remind us how bad sin is.





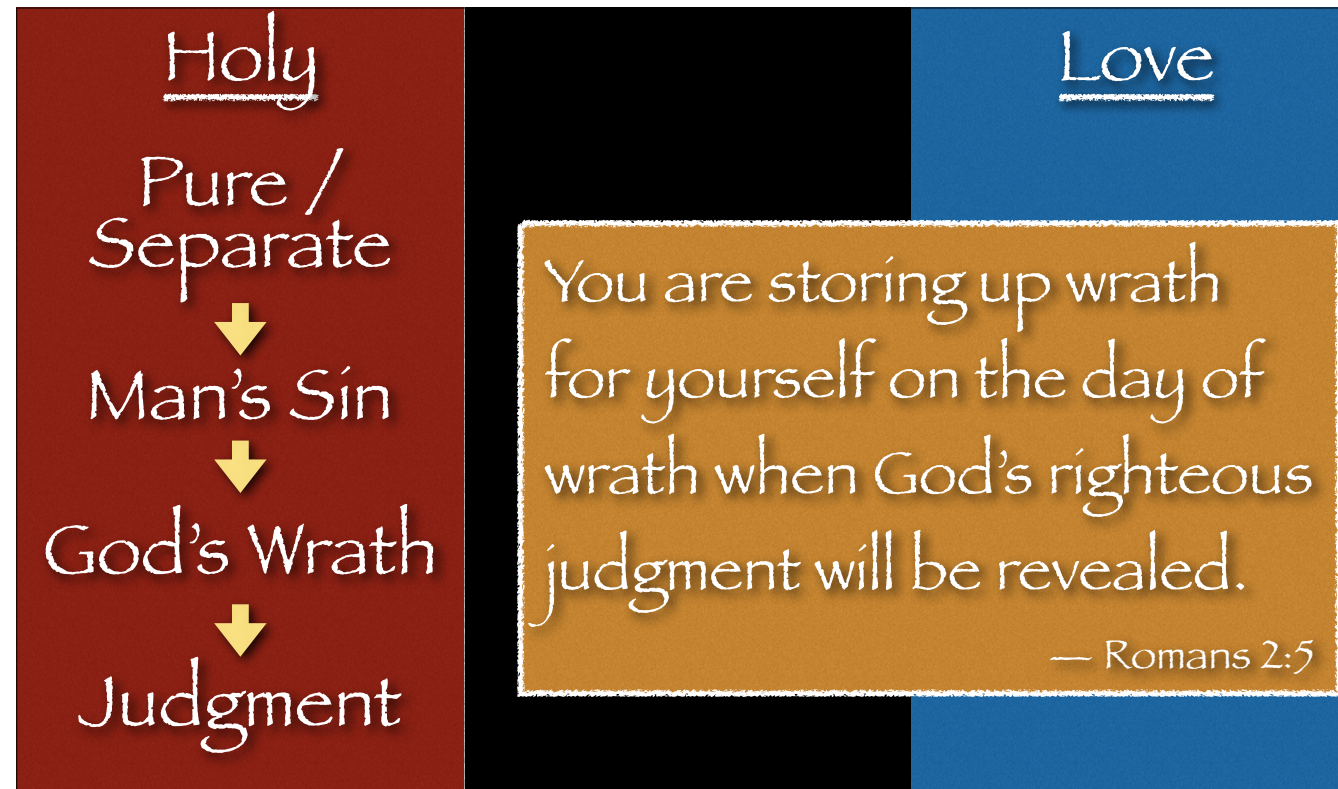
And God's wrath leads to His judgment, condemnation.

Romans 2:5

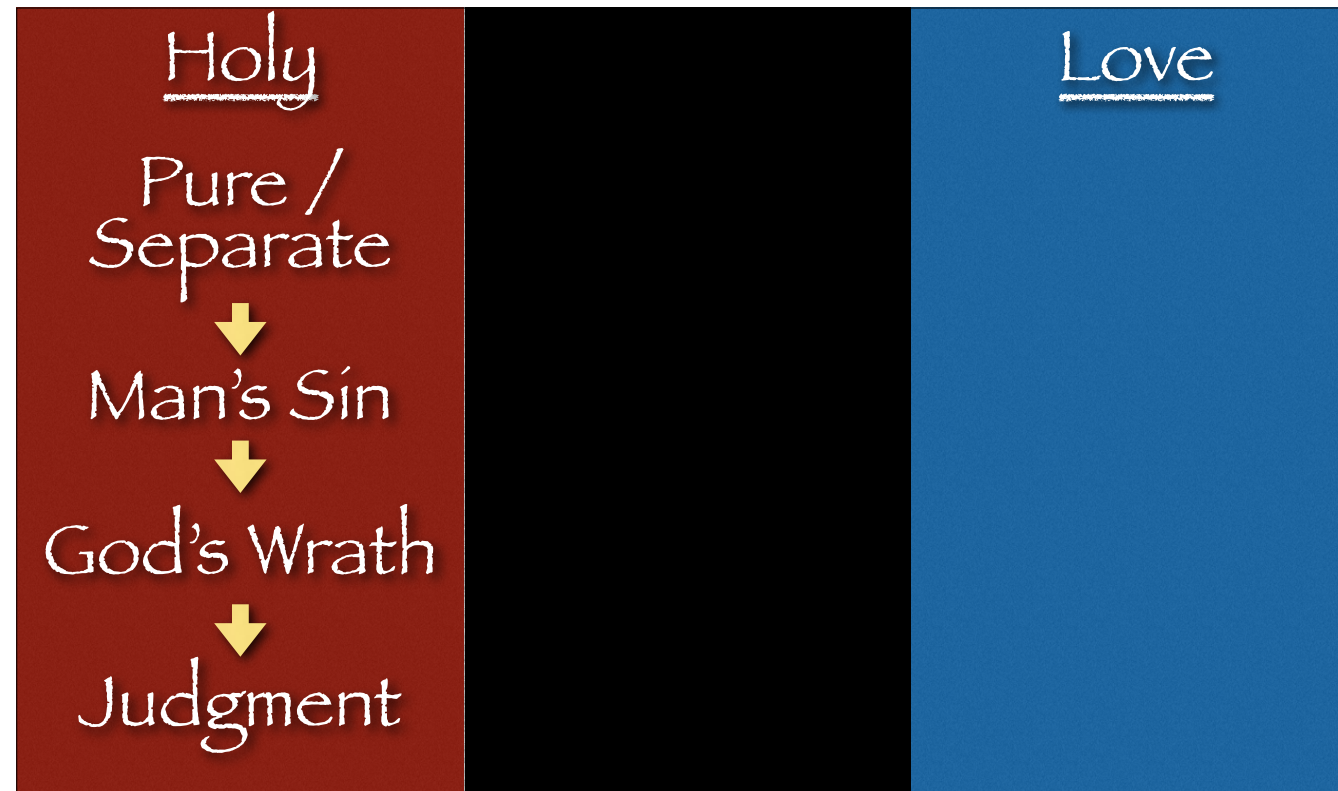


Romans 2:5: But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.



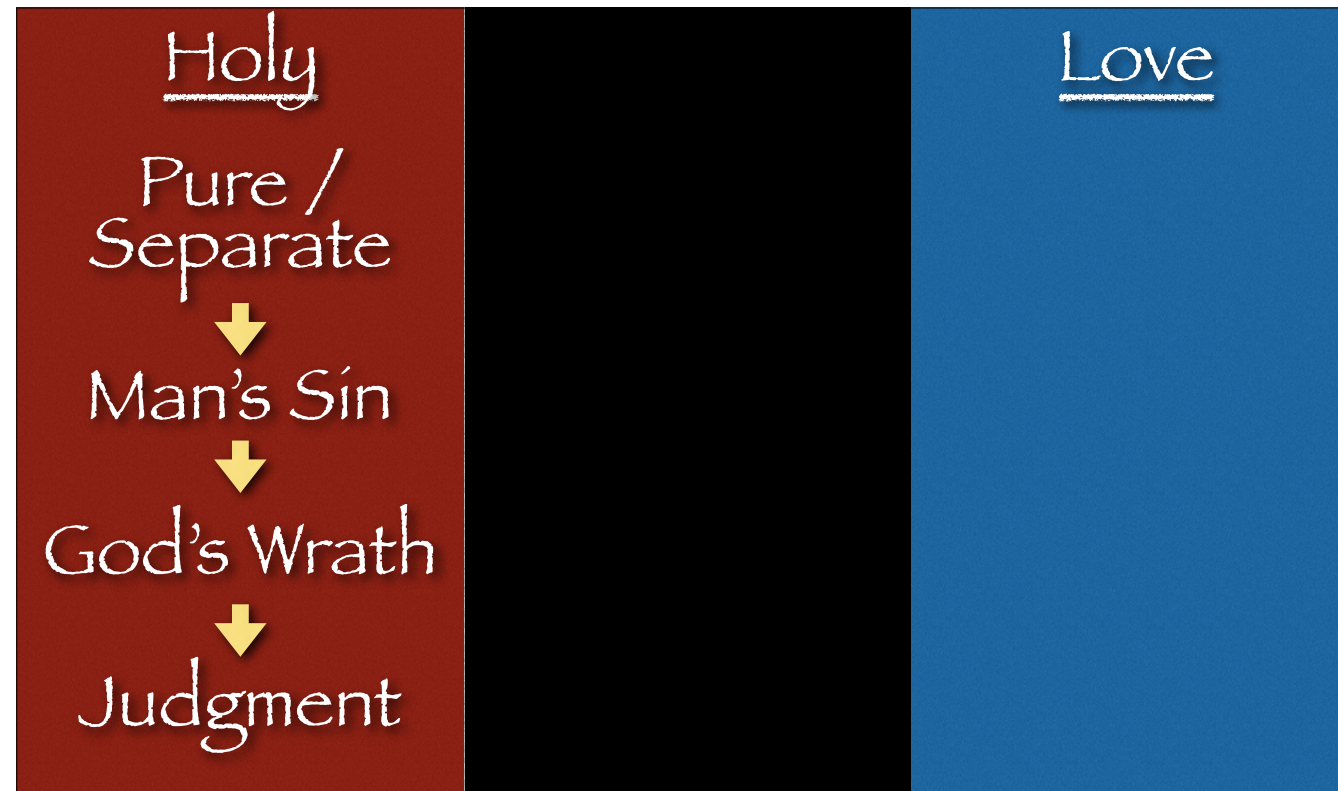


God's holiness leads directly to God's just judgment against sinful, rebellious man.

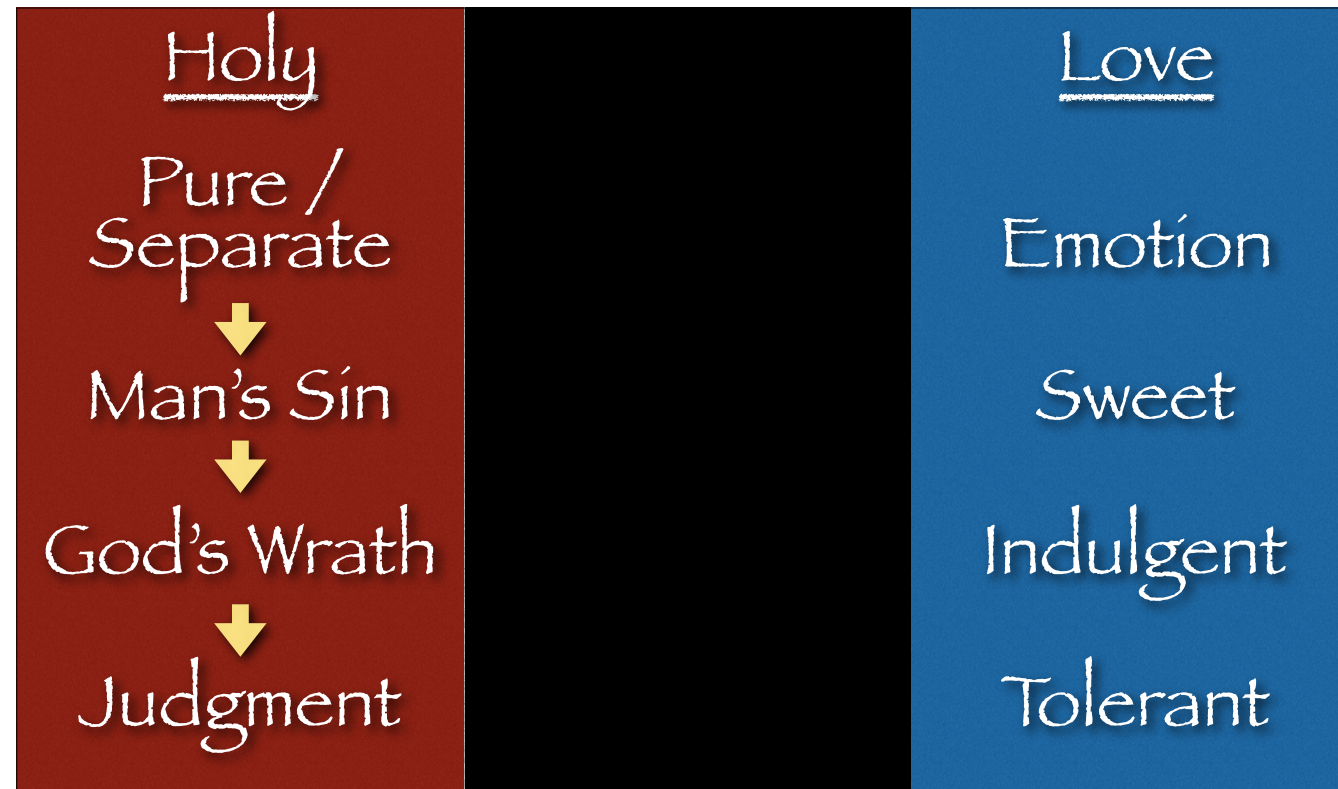


On the other hand, and seeming to many people to contradict this is God's love.

Love, grace, mercy.

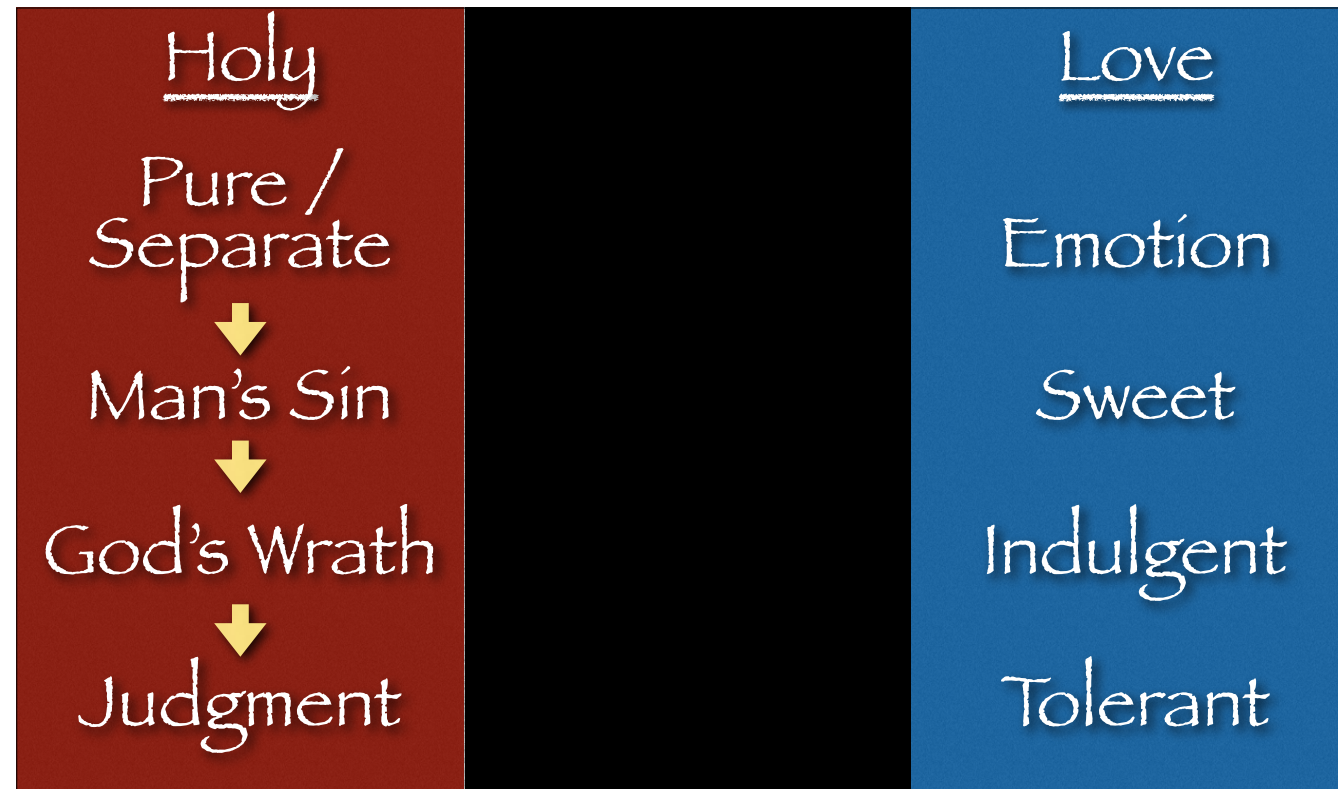


The way that most people understand God's love is based almost completely on their own experiences of love, and how they define love.



Different words used: emotion, sweet, indulgent, tolerant.

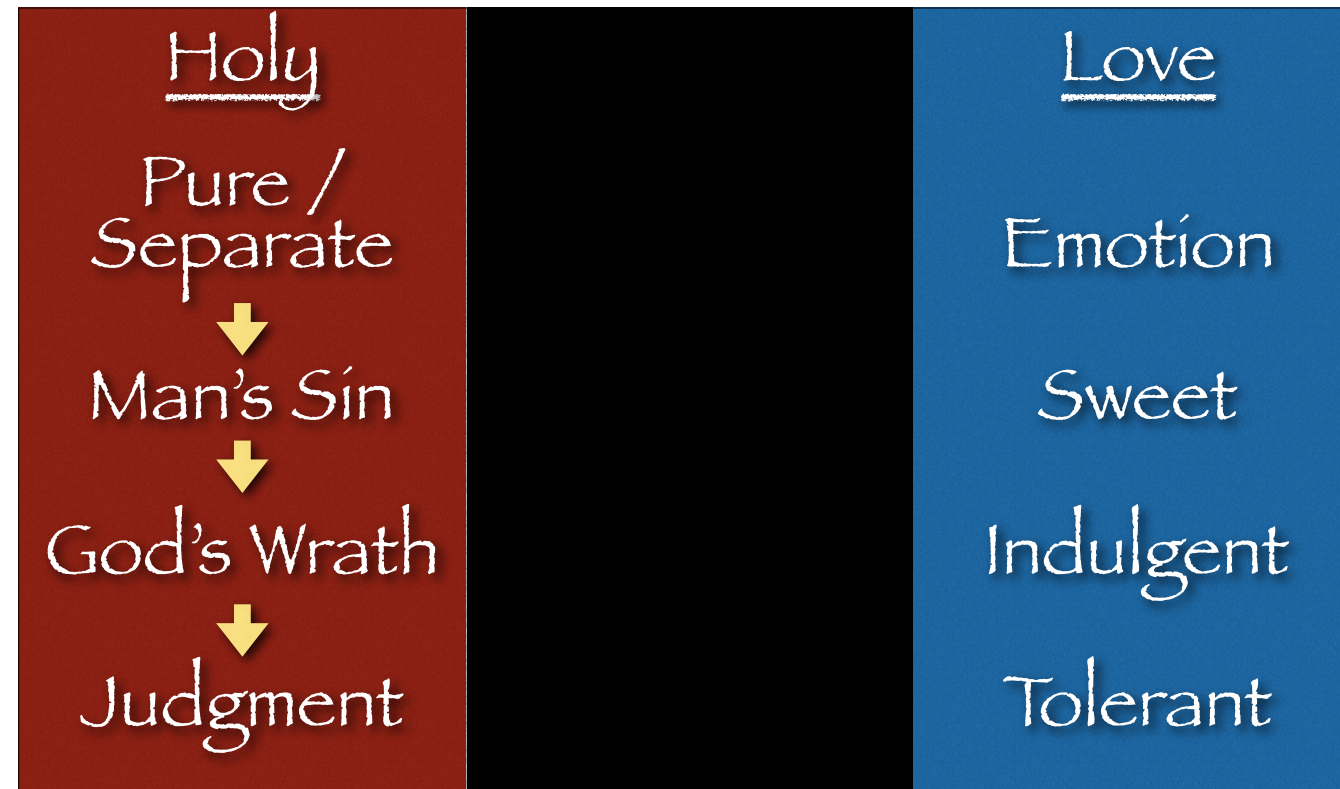
Generalizing, this is how some parents, grandparents treat their children



give them anything they want

indulge their desires.

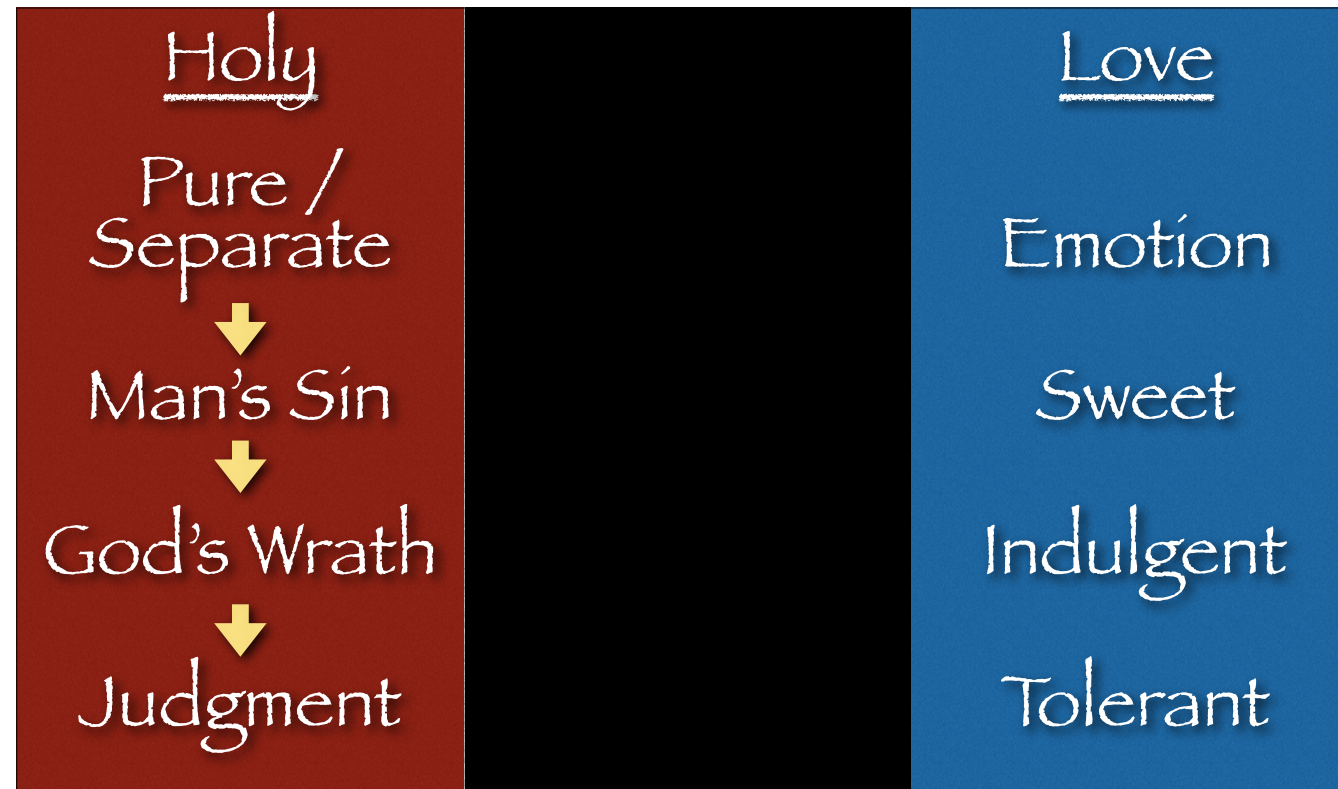
Do not wrong.



Cute, smiling child?

dirty, crying child?

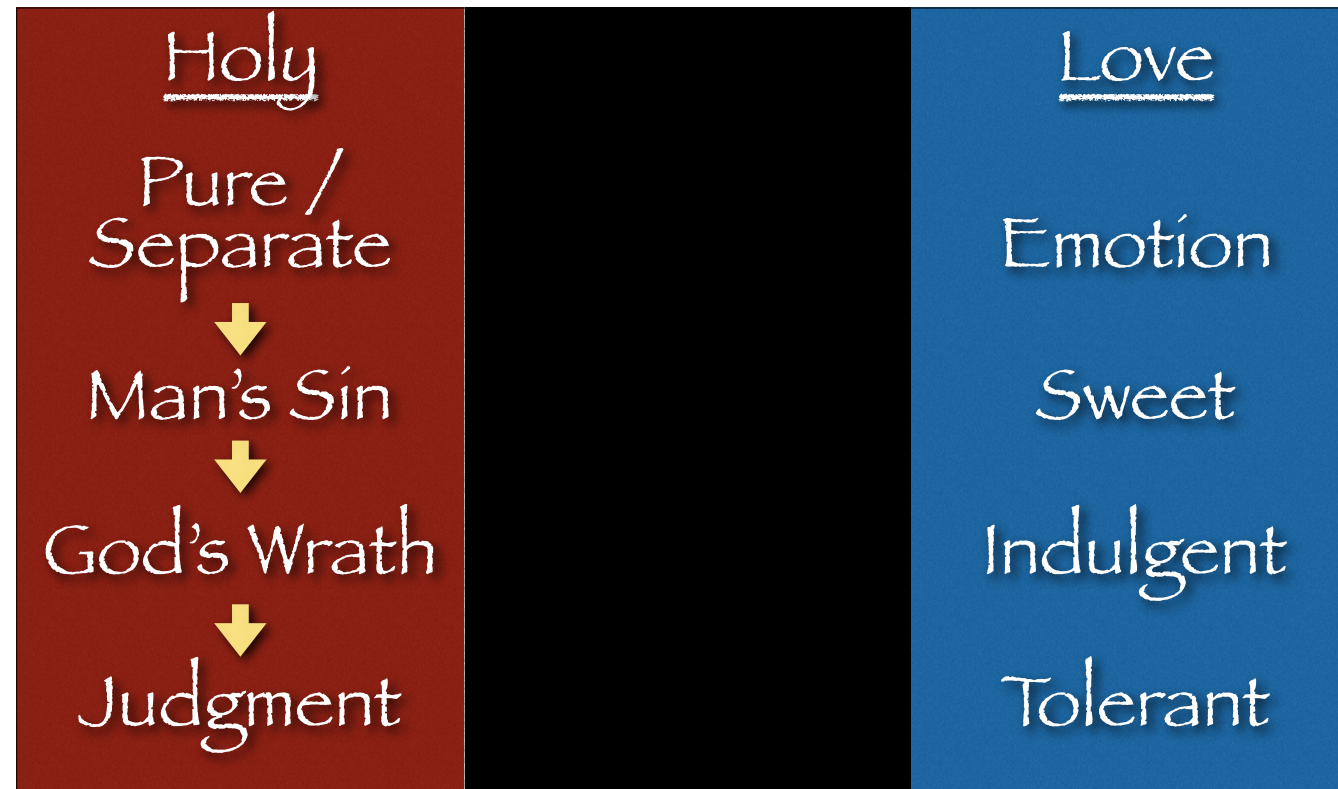




God want's me to be happy!

Therefore he's willing to tolerate, be indulgent

(Sin is not really all that bad... God won't condemn me!)

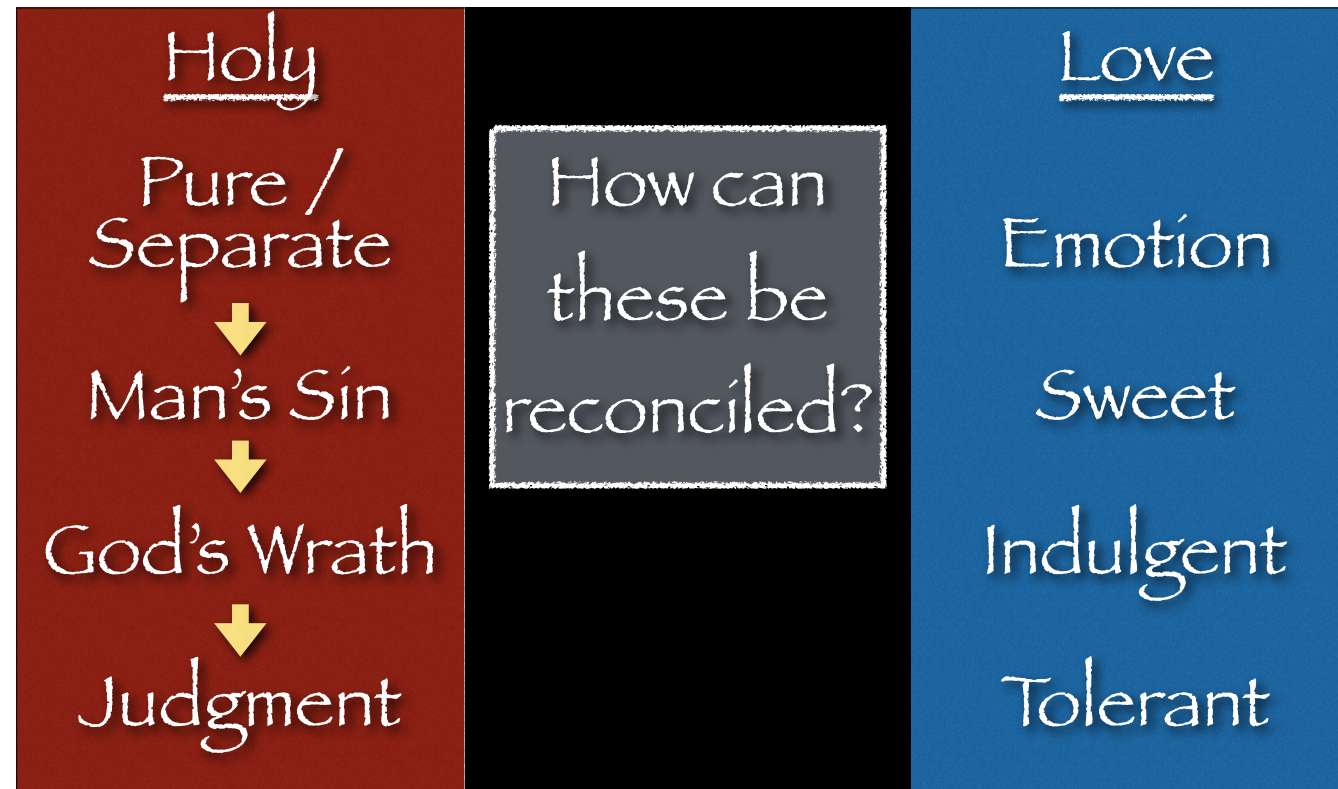


How can a loving God... ?

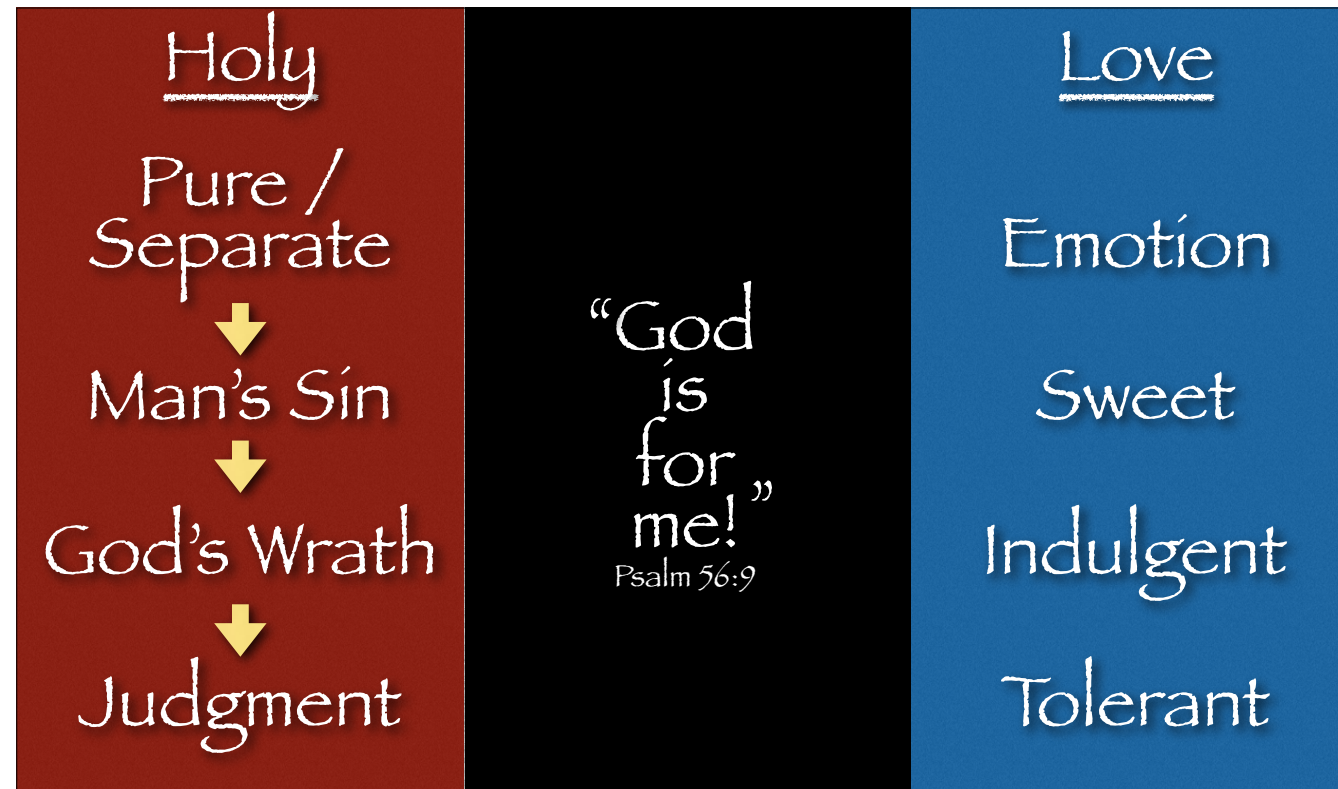
send someone to hell for eternity for stealing bread when they were feeding starving children?

Therefore, there cannot really be any judgment against sin.

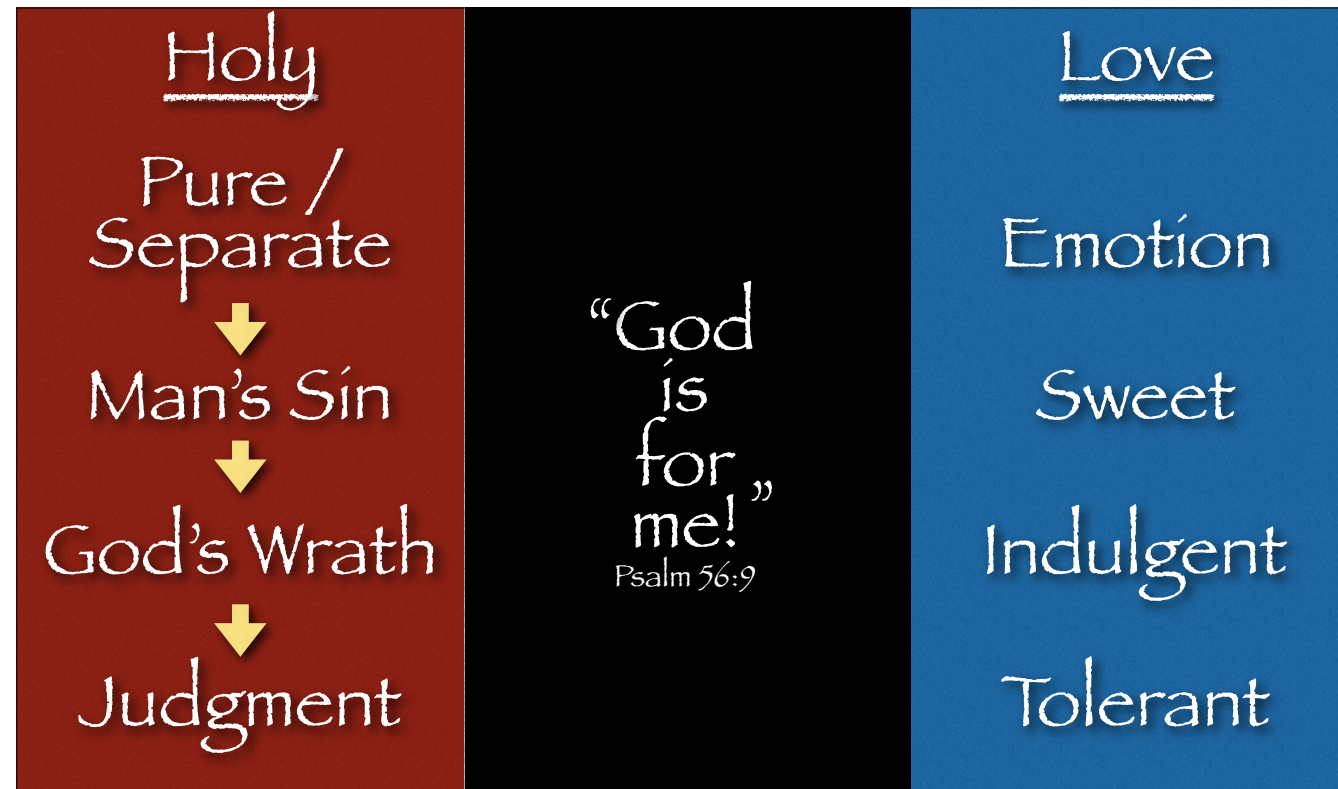




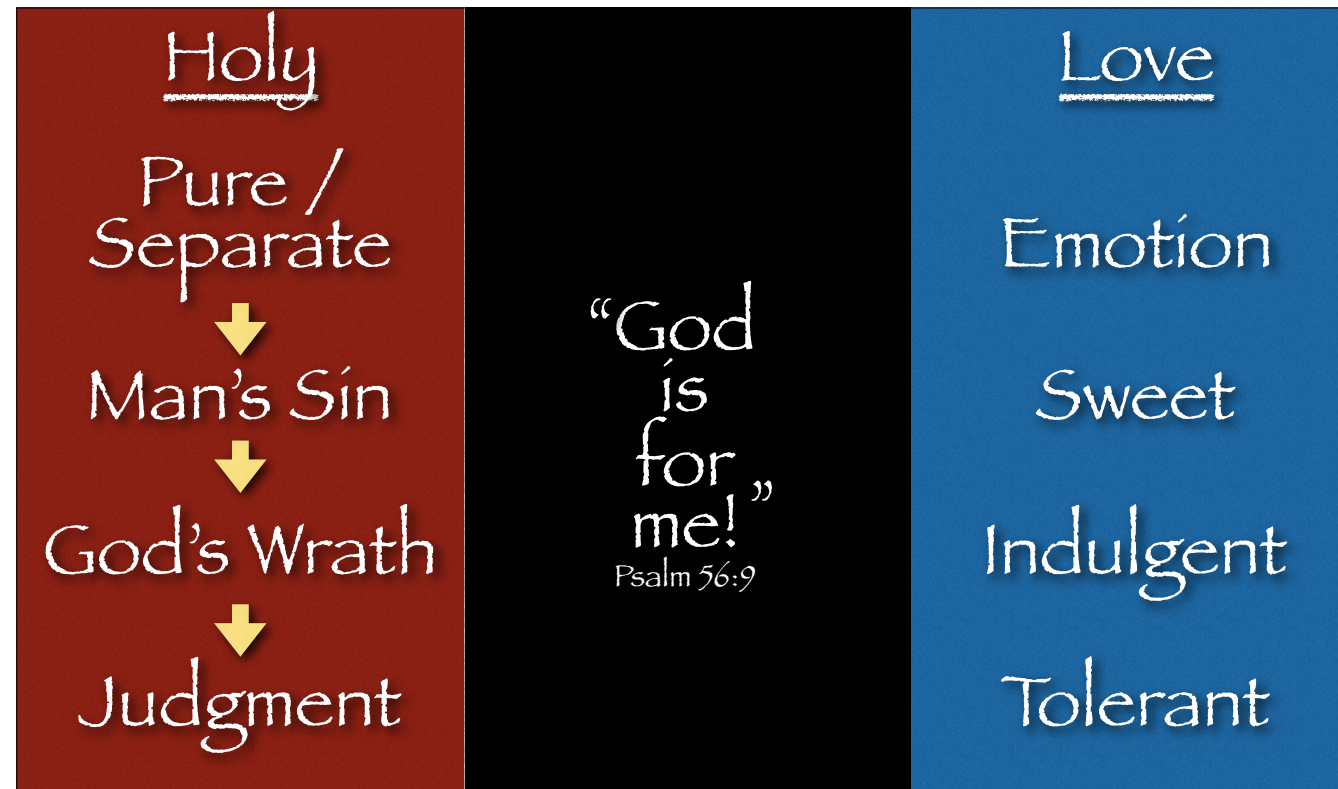
So how do we reconcile these to very divergent views?



God is for me!: Psalm 56:9



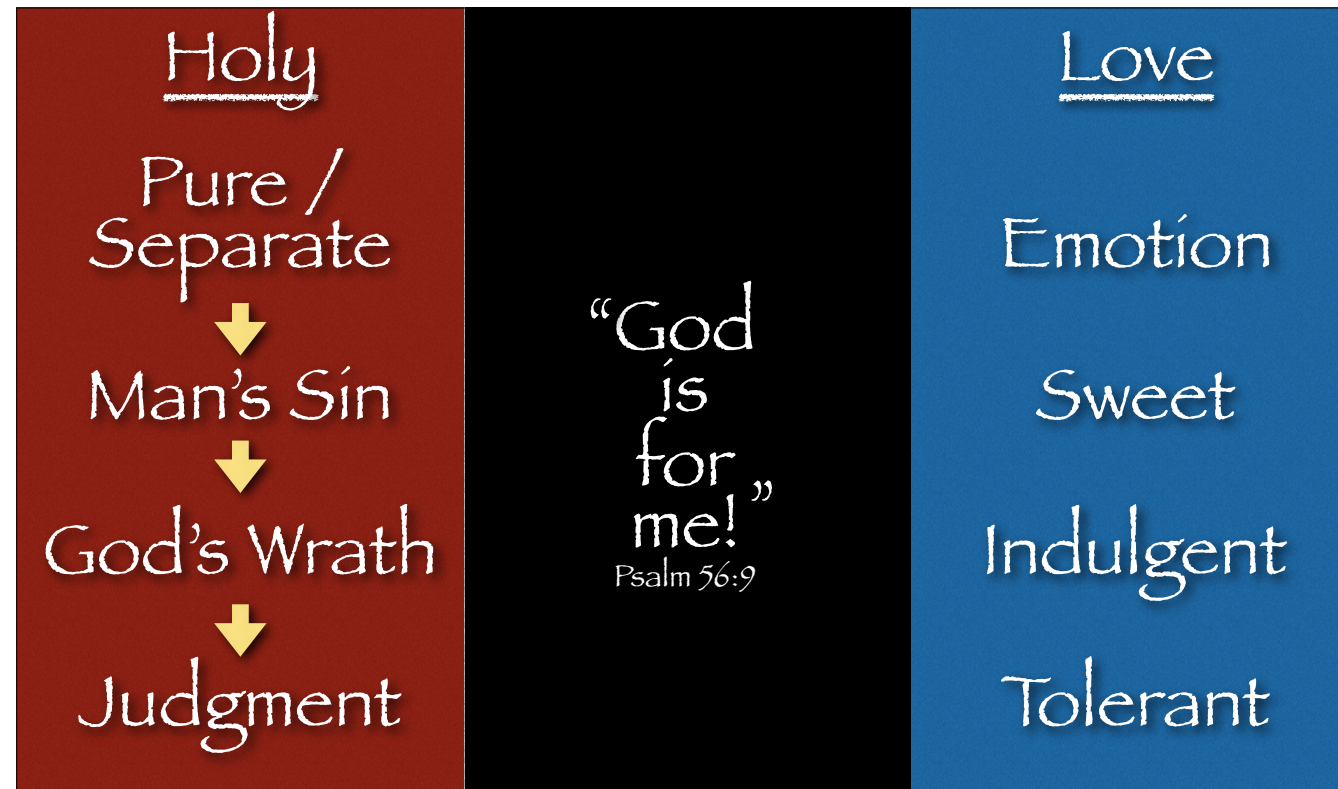
Understand that seeing God's holiness leading only to judgment: sees God as against man.



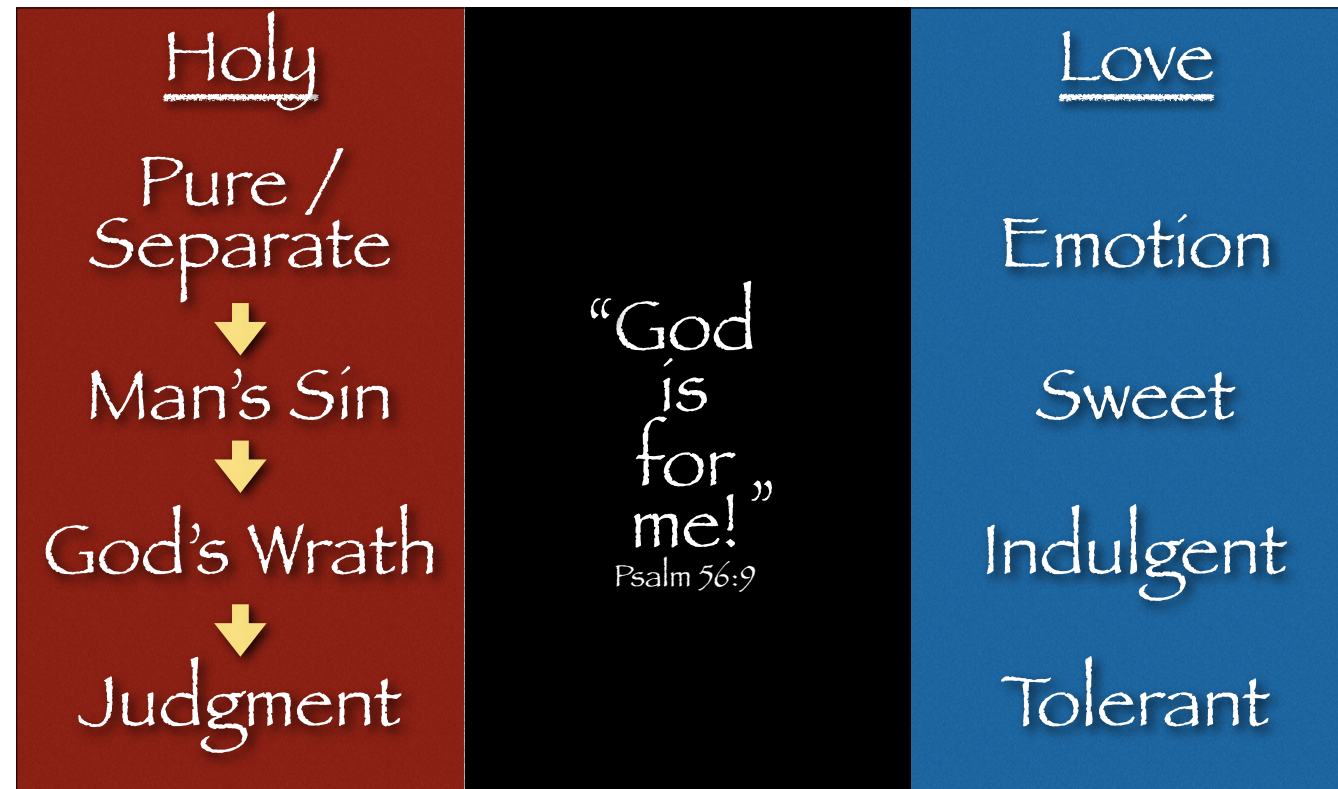
Both of these lead to my destruction:

Holy: Guilt condemns and I always feel bad about myself.

Love: I do what I want and lack of restraint destroys me.



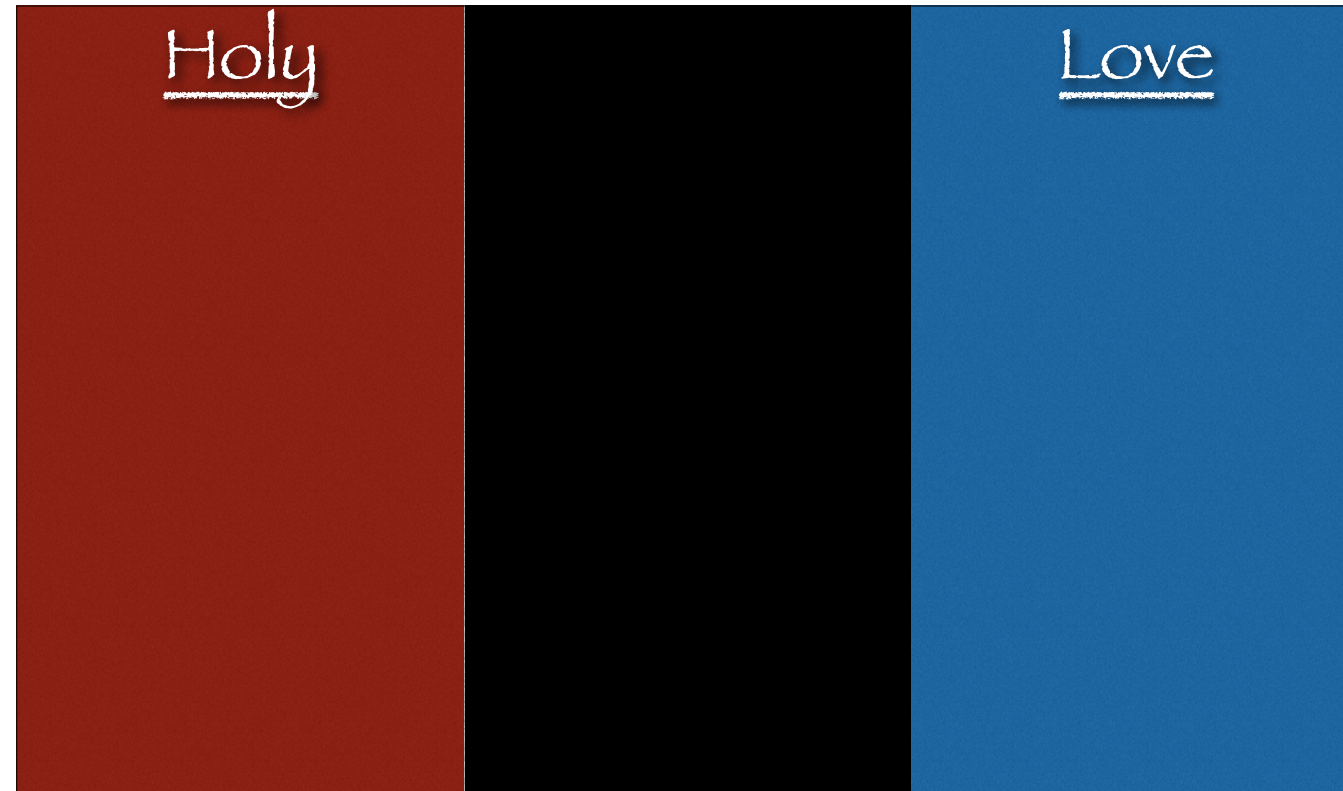
Either way, God is not for me! based on these views.



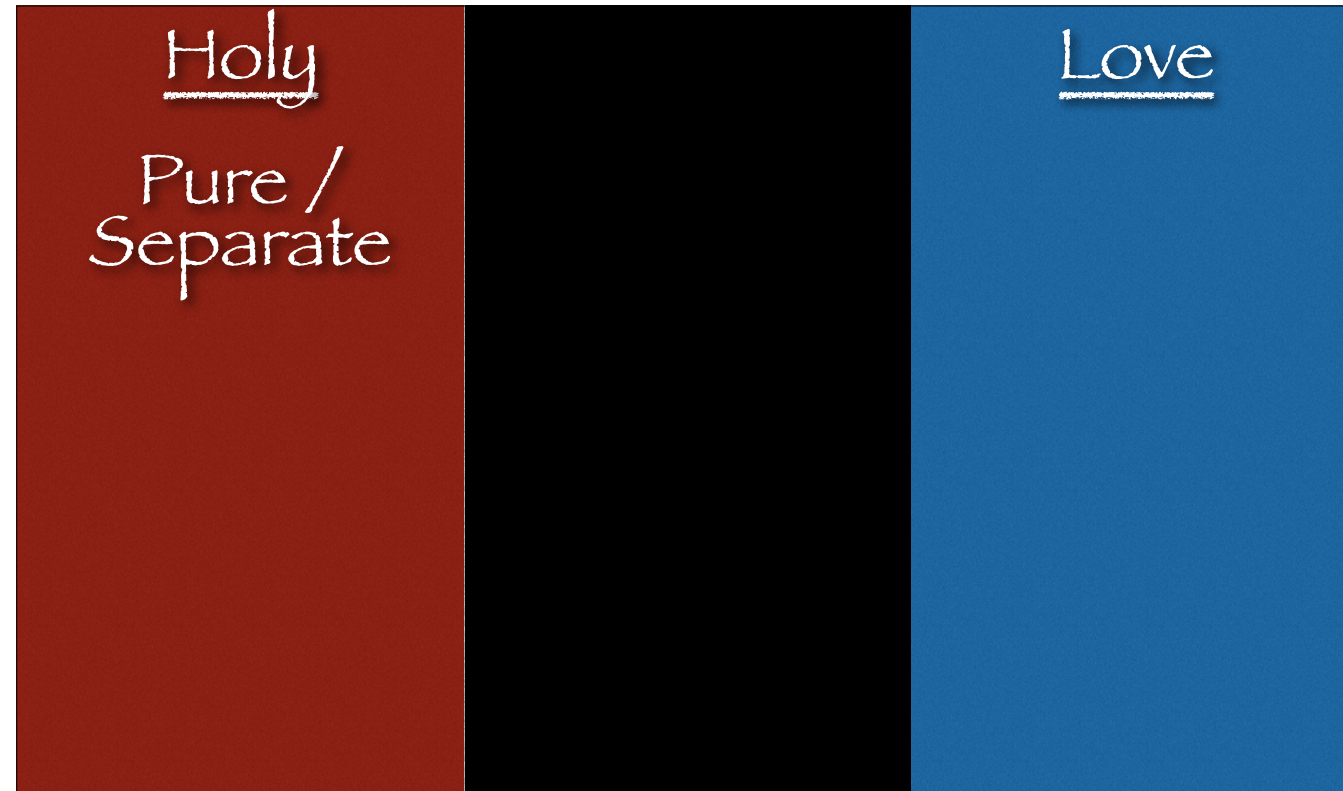
Something is missing in how we are understanding either God's Love or God's Holiness.

Or both!



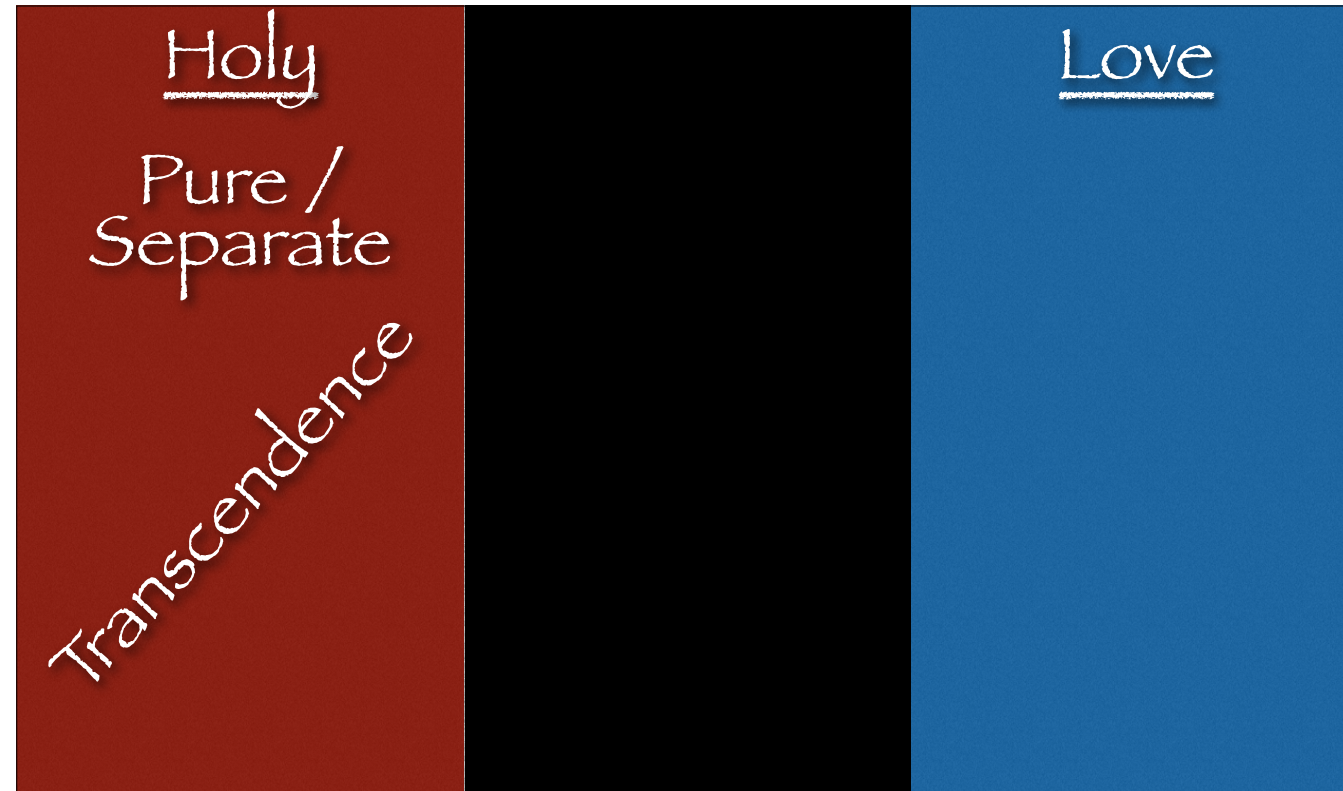


So let's start over... Holy and Love; bridging the gap.

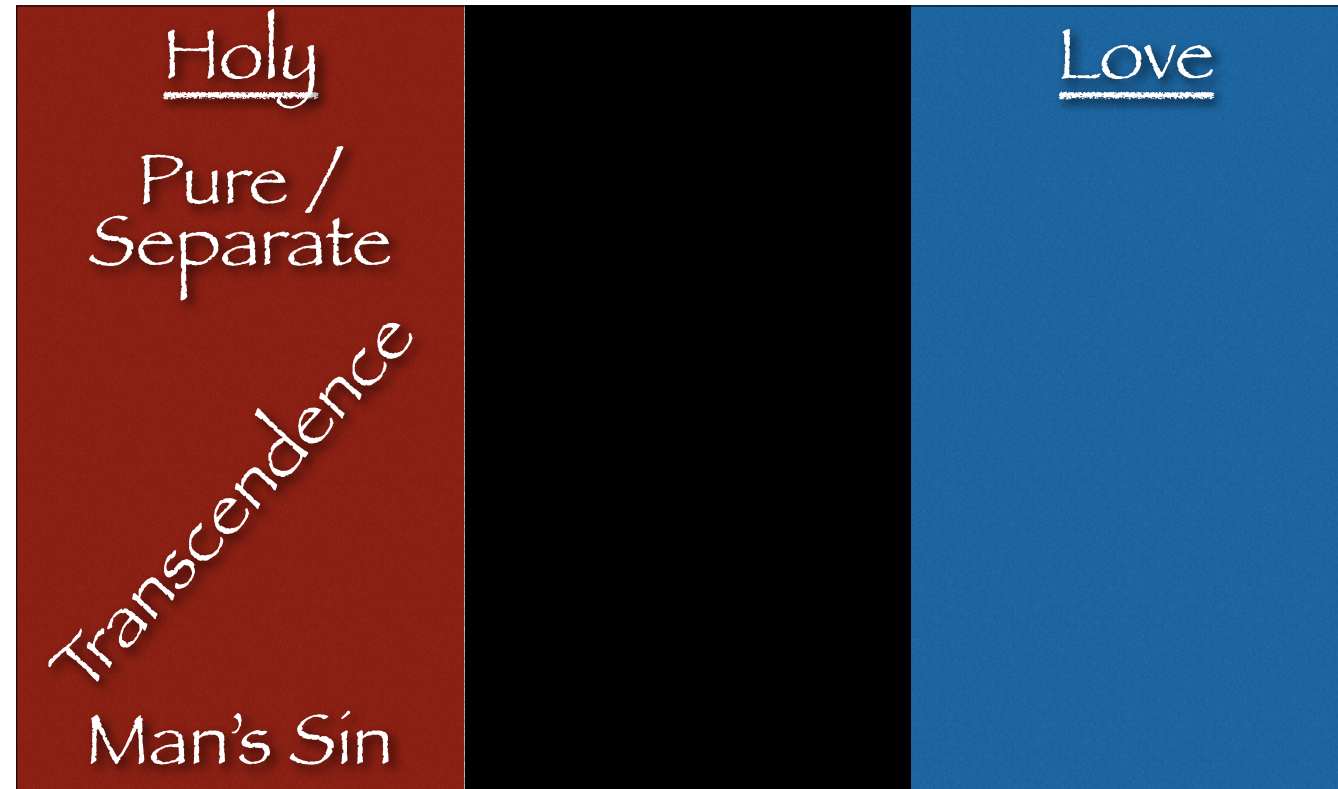


Holy: still has idea of pure/separate (esp. when dealing with sin)





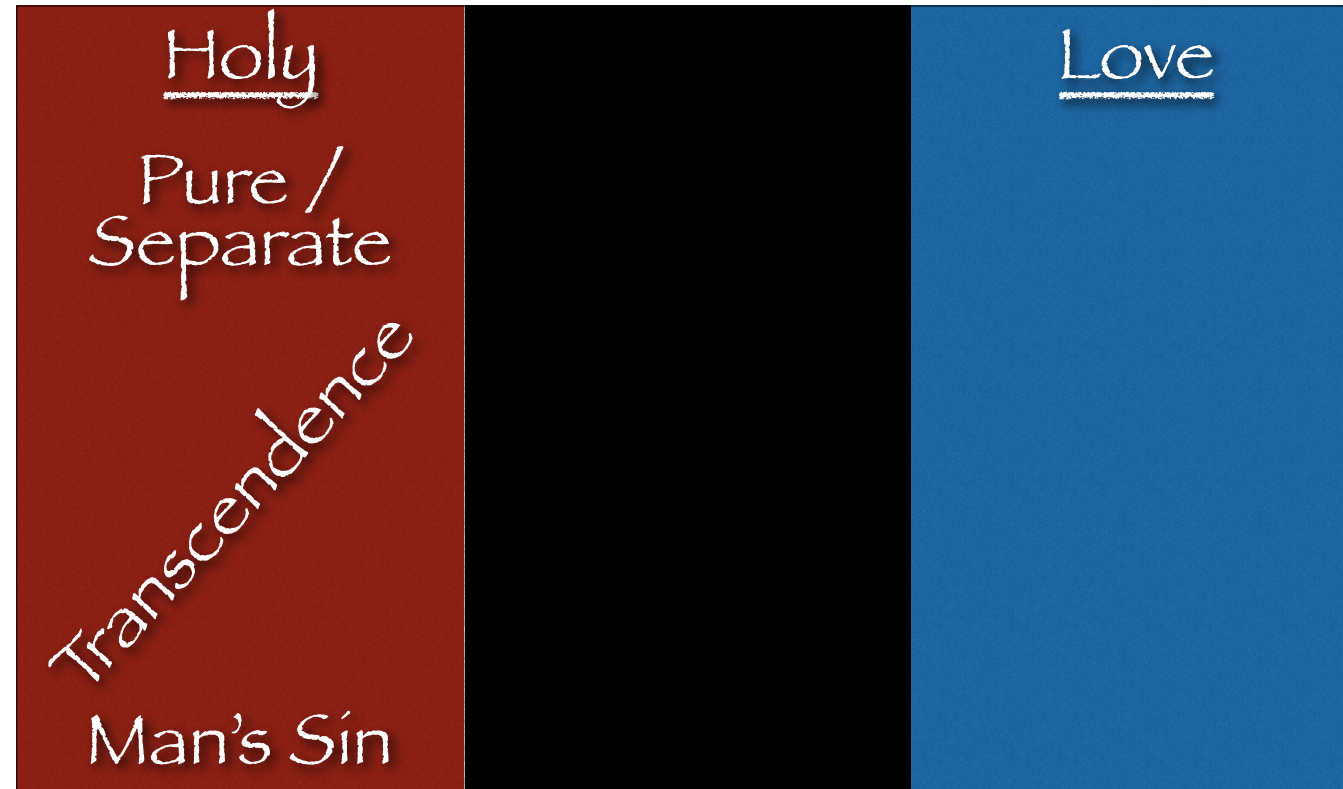
More... holy reminds us of God's transcendence; that He is utterly different than us.



In contrast with our sin; God's holiness reflects just how different He is from us.

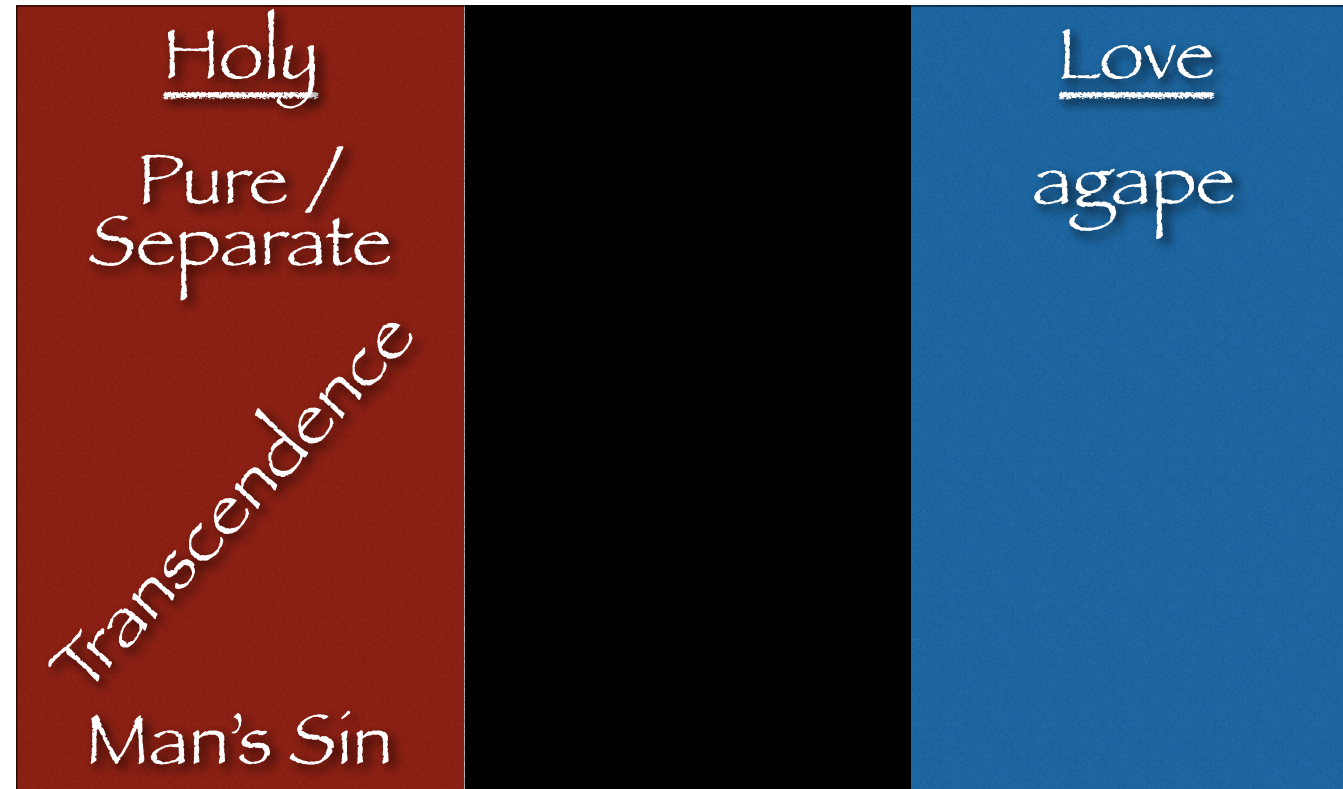
Different

Greatest expression of His complete transcendence, differentness, over us is His LOVE

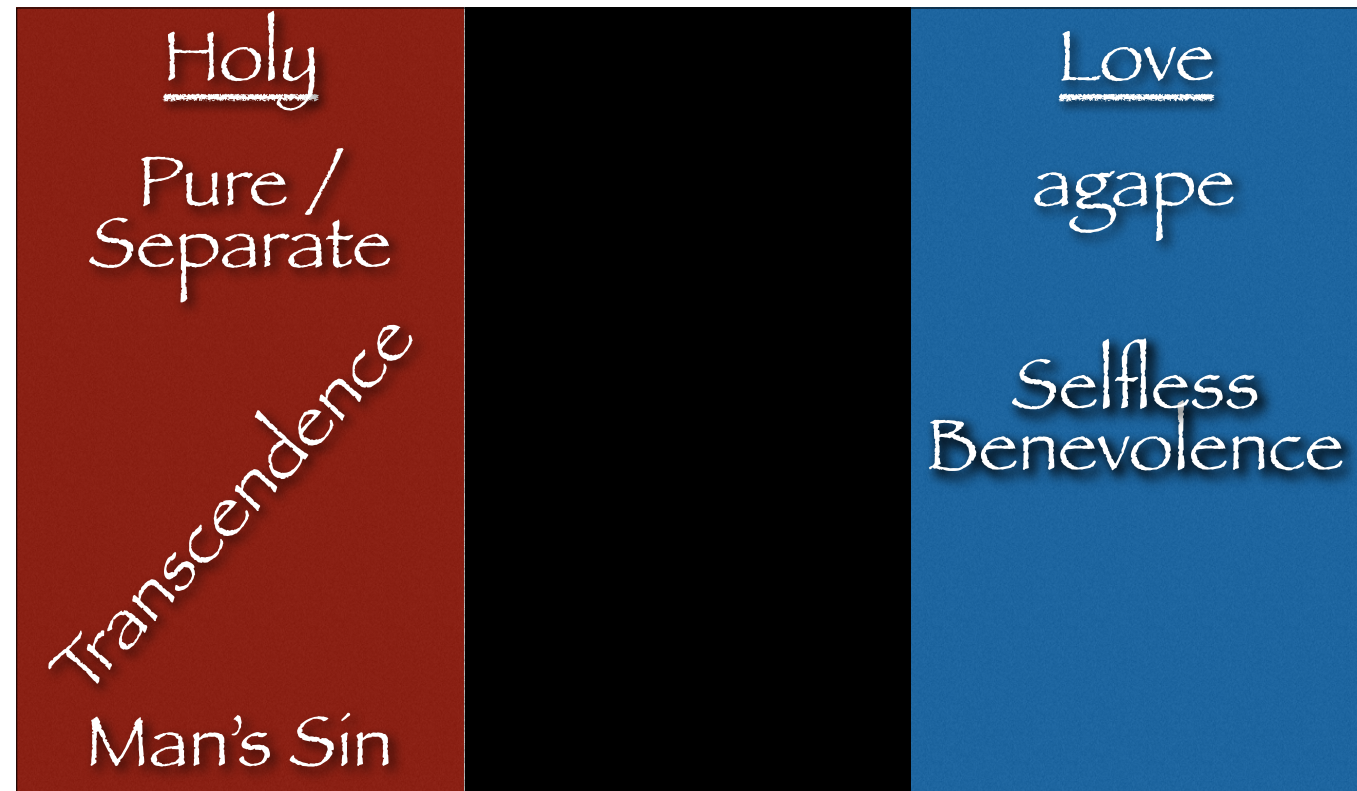


Love...

Not defined by man, but by God.

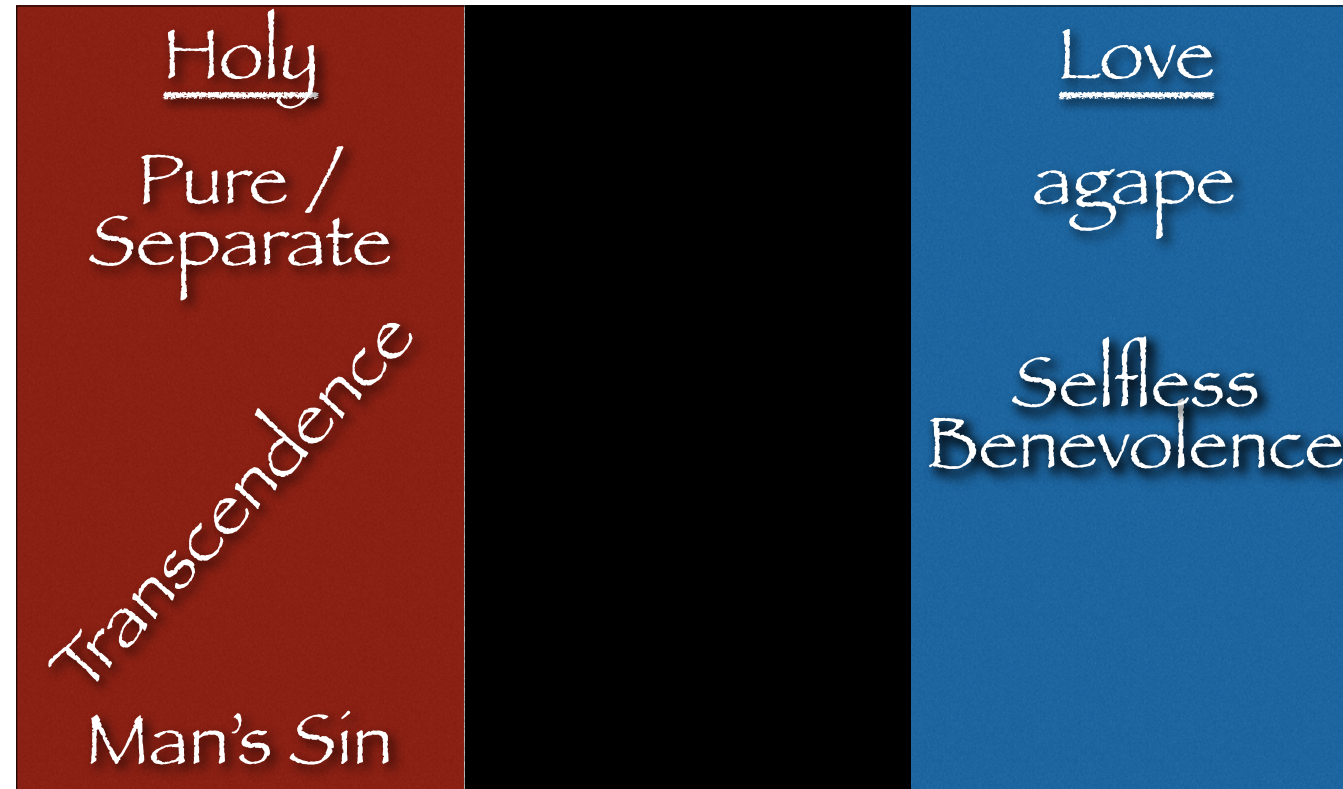


In NT, over and over uses the word “agape”:

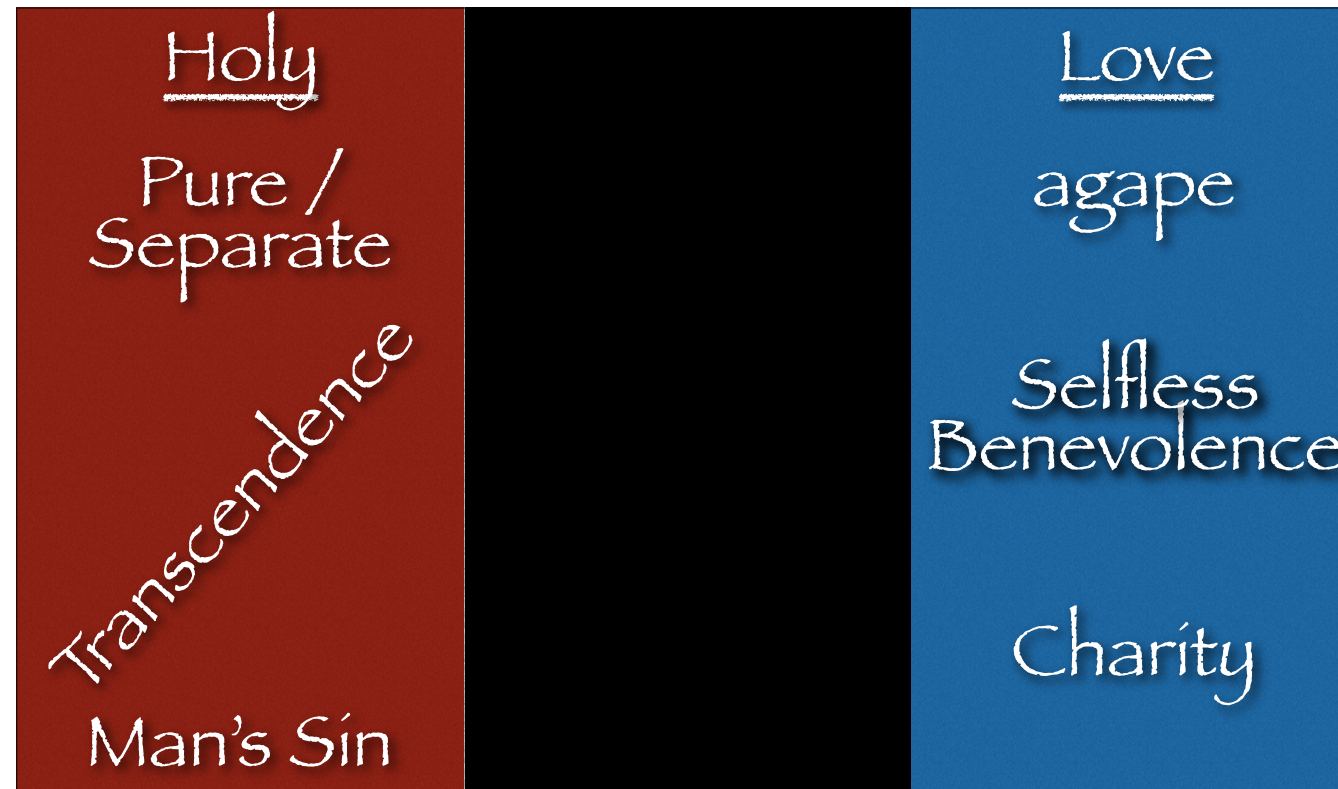


It's a special love... speaking of selfless benevolence. Looks to do what is best for the object of love.

Typified in Parable of Good Samaritan (Lk. 10)



It is not concerned about what the one who loves want; nor what the object of love wants, better, NEEDS.

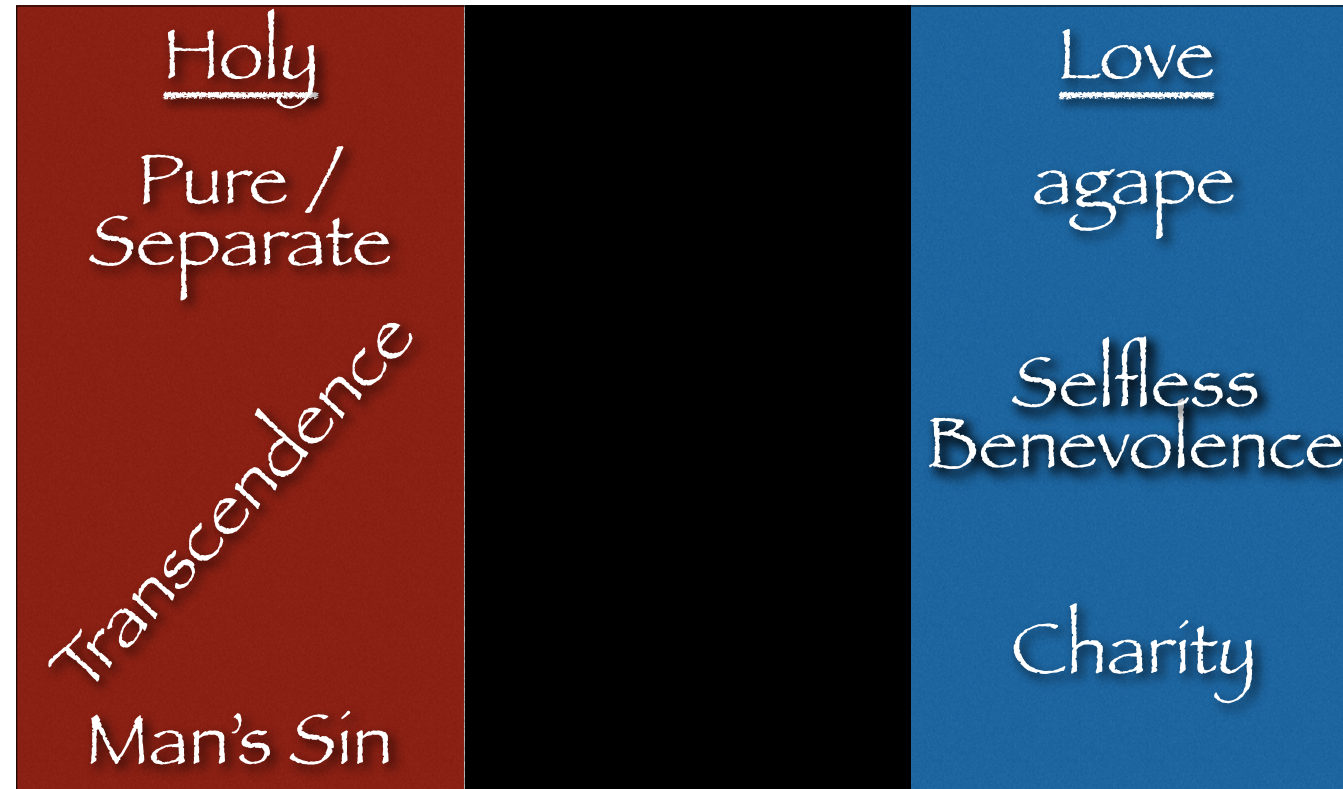


It is concerned about meeting the real need.

KJV frequently translates: charity.

Beautiful idea: selflessly doing that which is best for another.

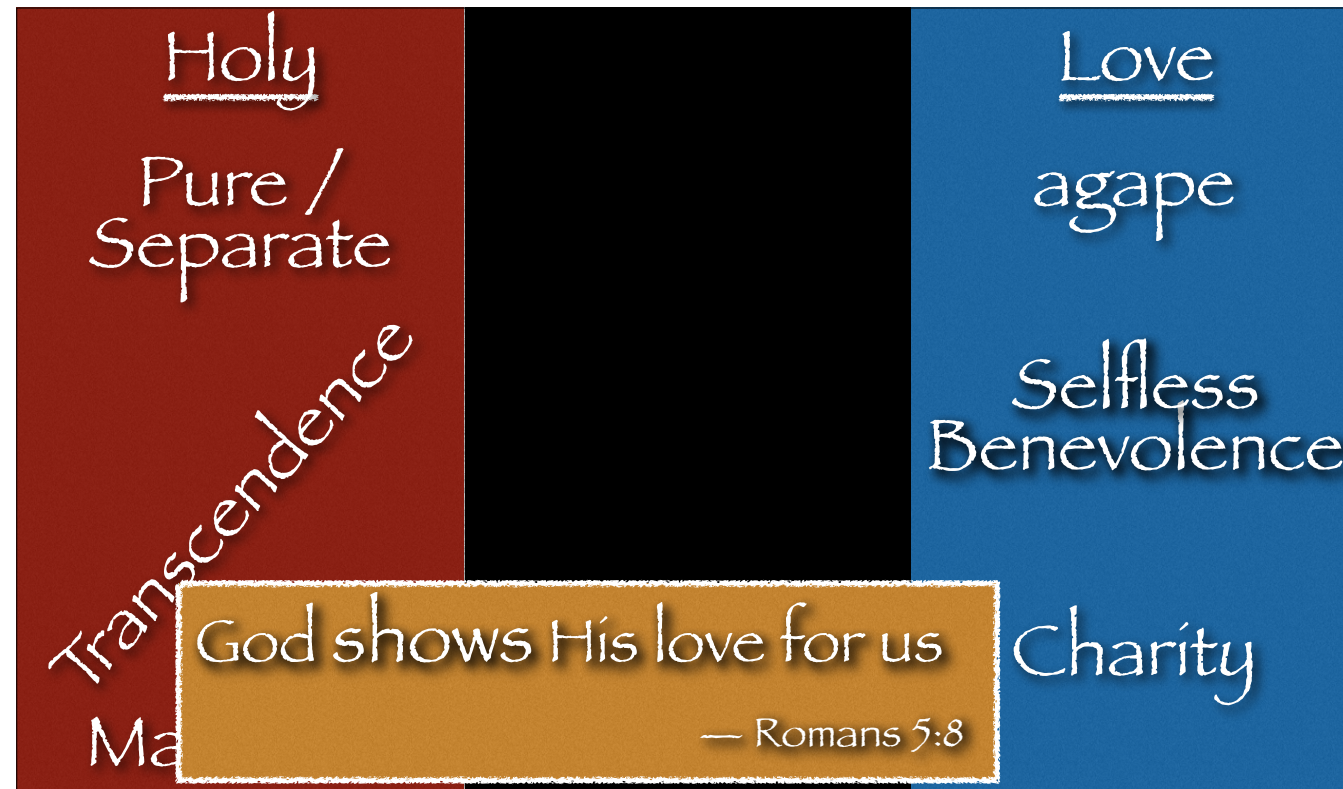




Loving sinners: more difficult by many degrees (than our own child, even dirty)

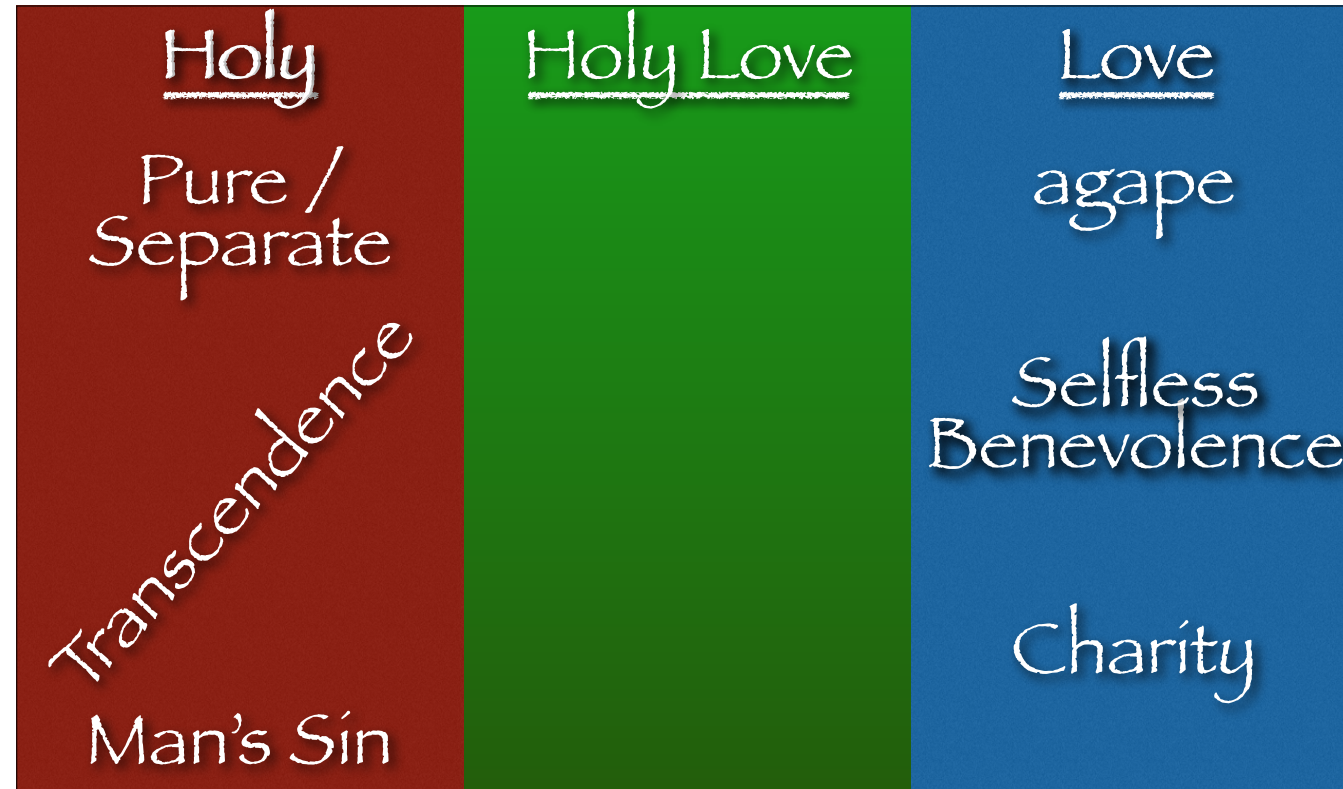
Romans 5:8





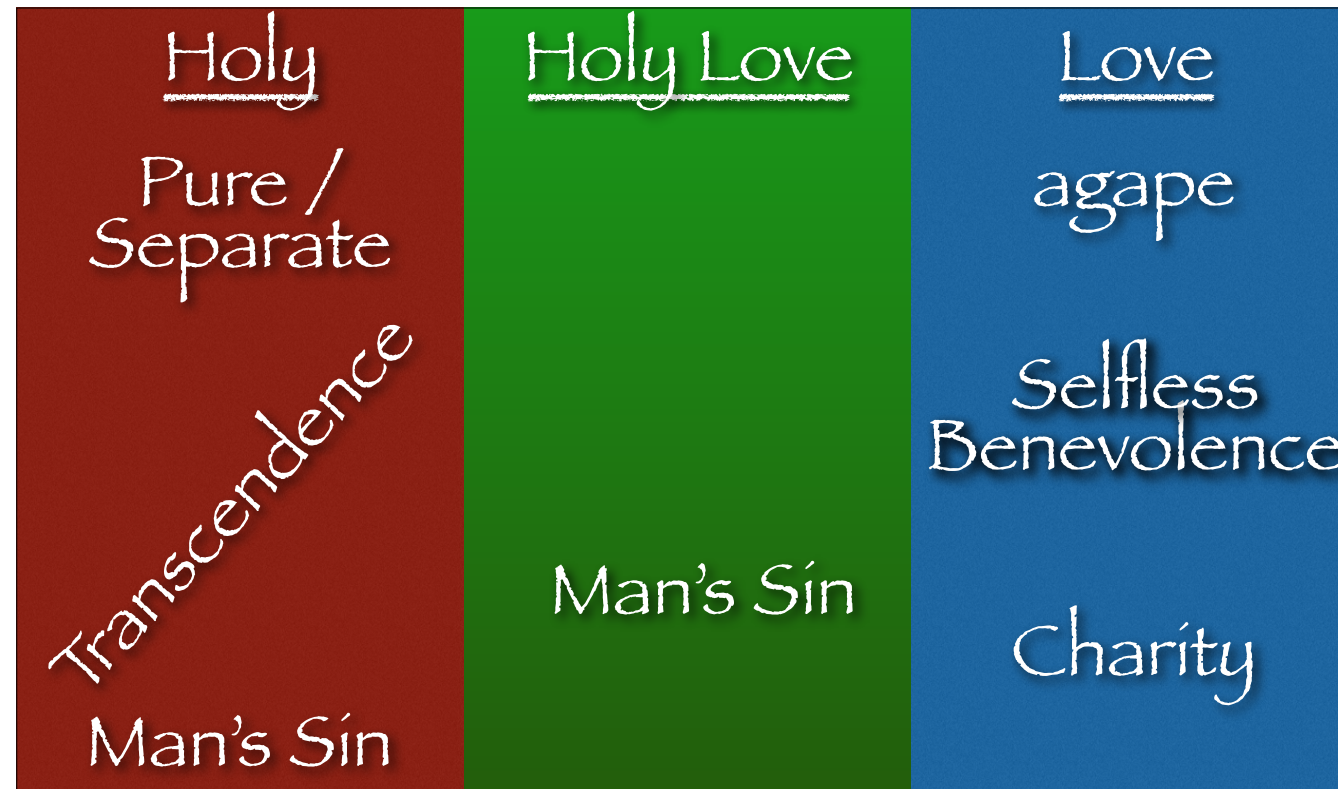
Romans 5:8: but **God shows his love for us** in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5: weak, ungodly, sinners, enemies



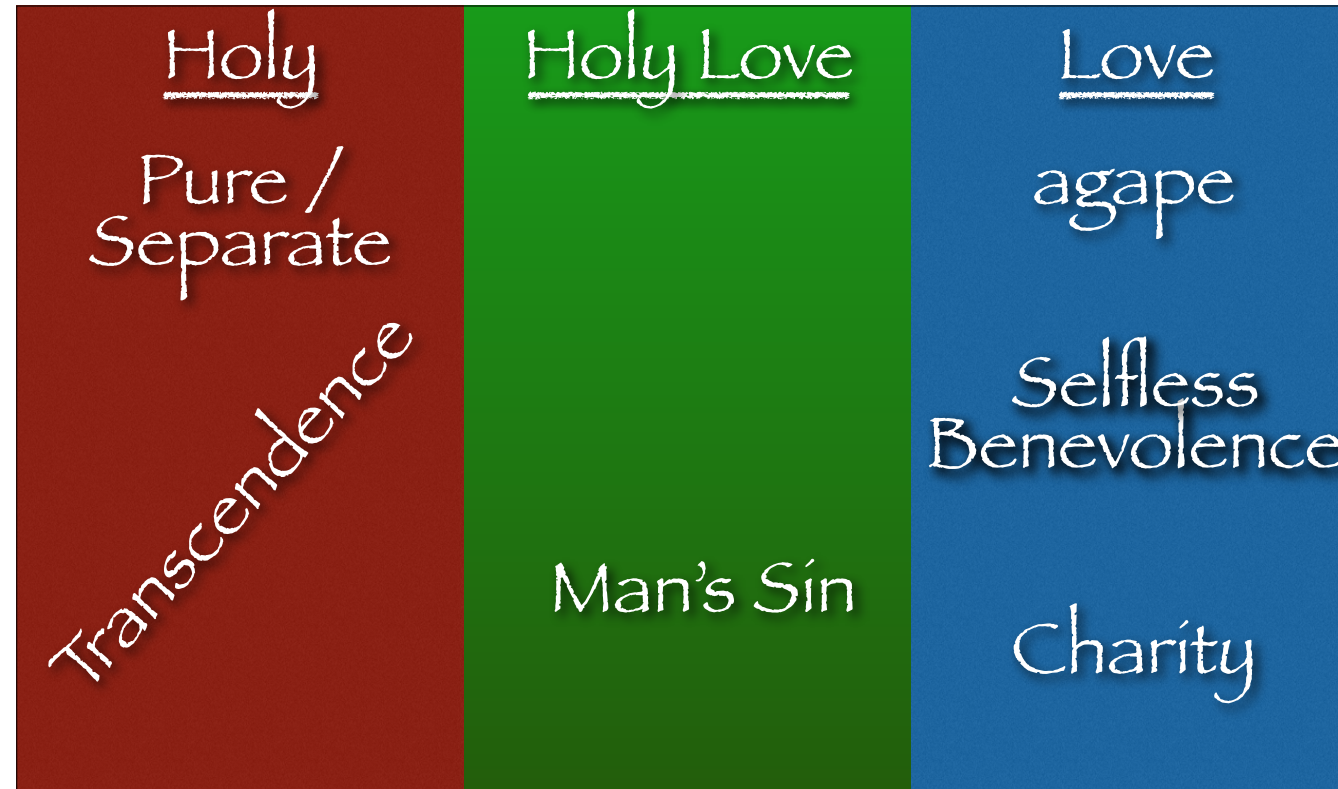
Bringing these definitions together, we have

Holy Love.

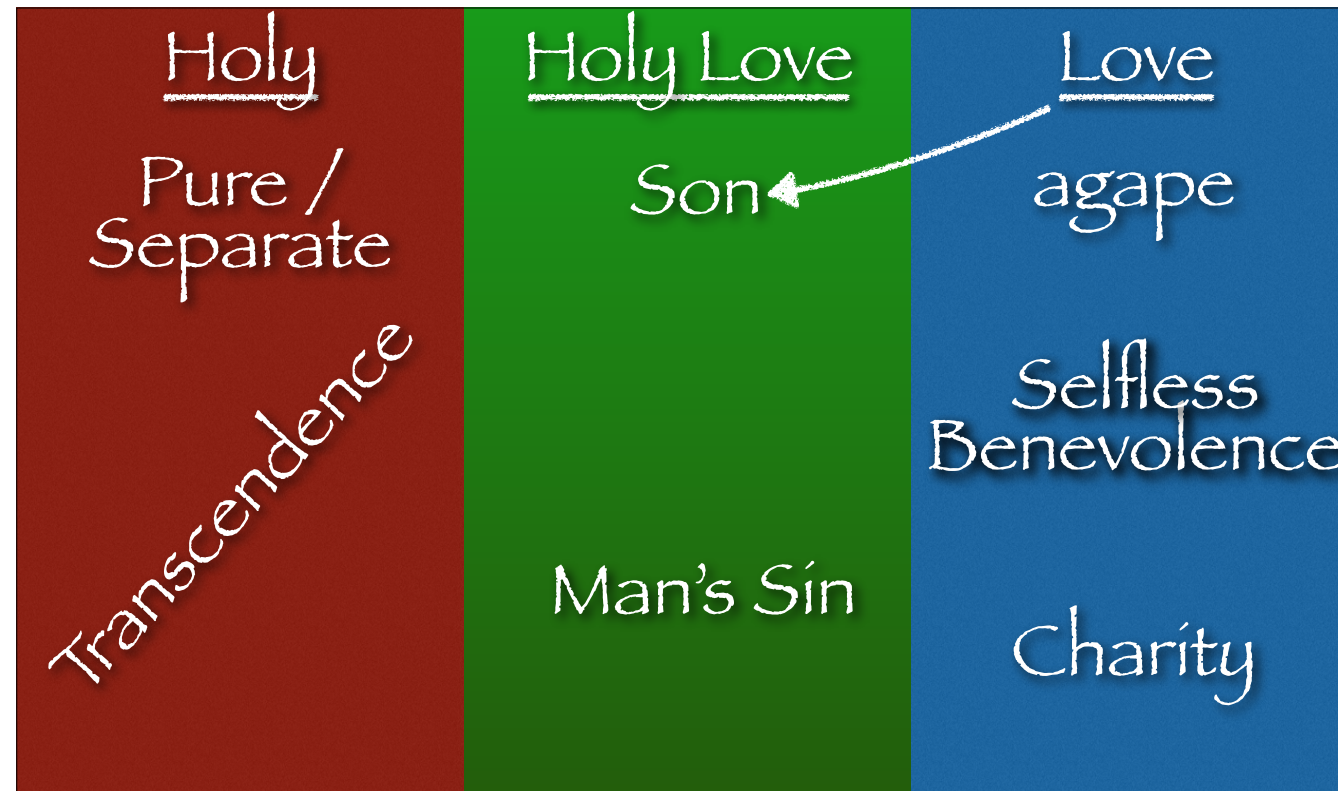


We are sinners

Shouldn't we want God to take sin seriously: esp. my own sin



Holy Love moves God to act against sin, to deal with it  
because it is contrary to His nature and His plans for us  
It destroys our hope of true life.



How did our Father move against sin?

By sending His son.

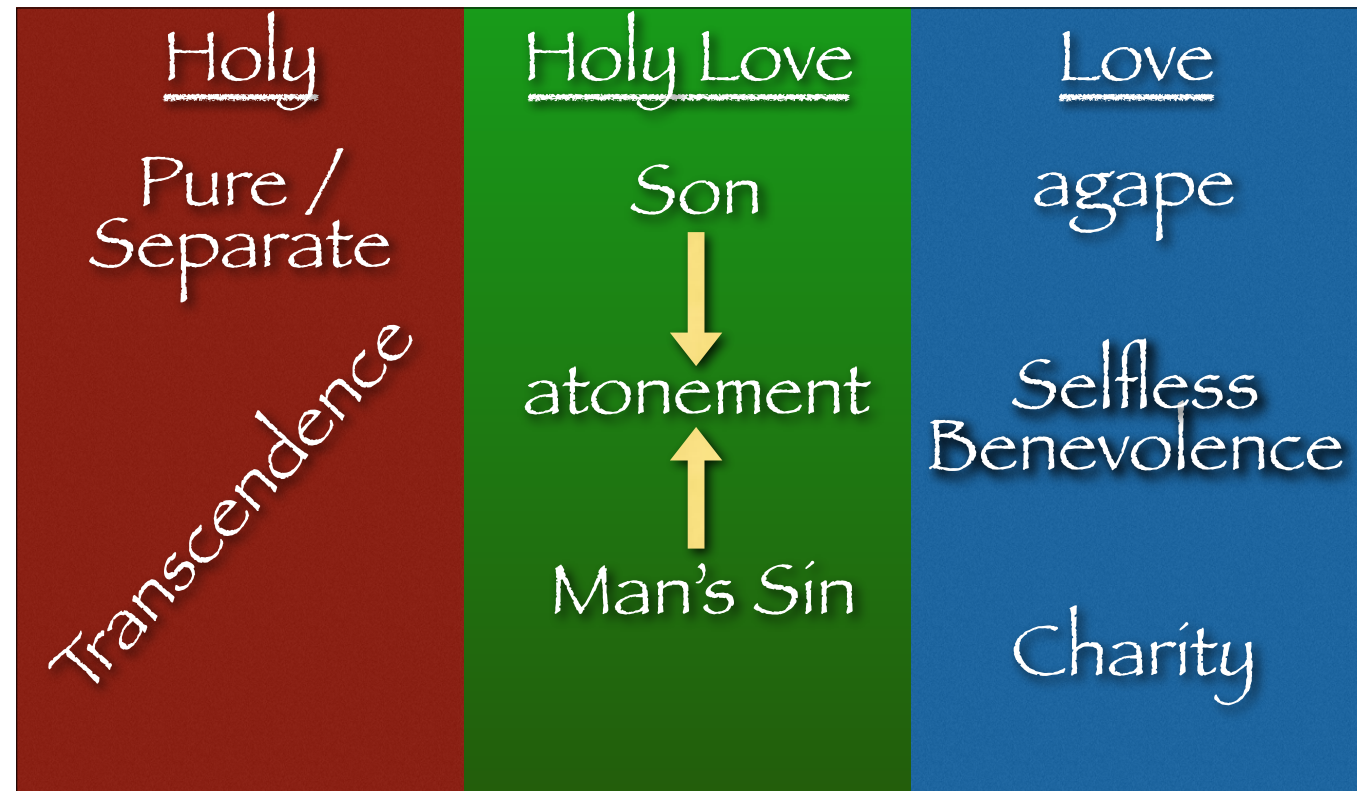


<u>Holy</u> Pure / Separate	<u>Holy Love</u> Son	<u>Love</u> agape
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For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

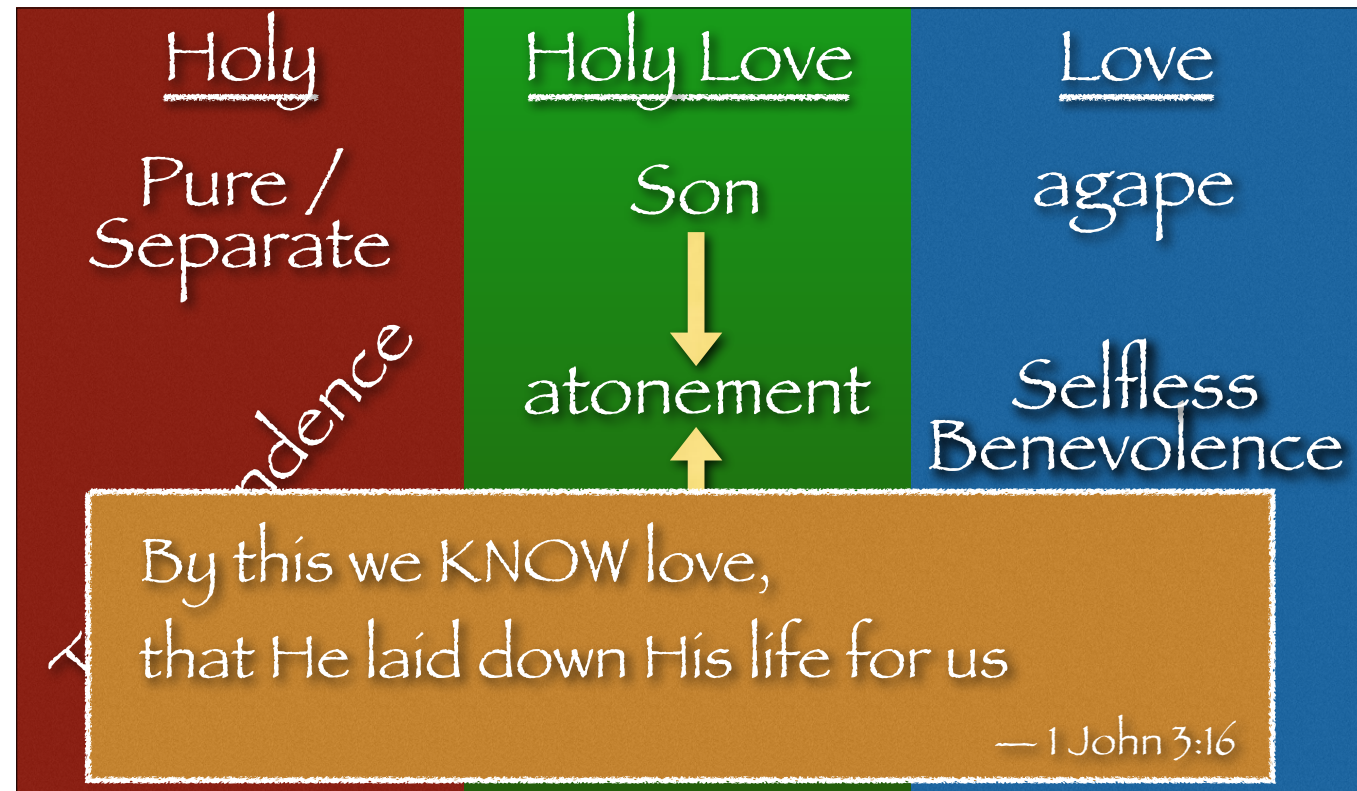
— John 3:16

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."



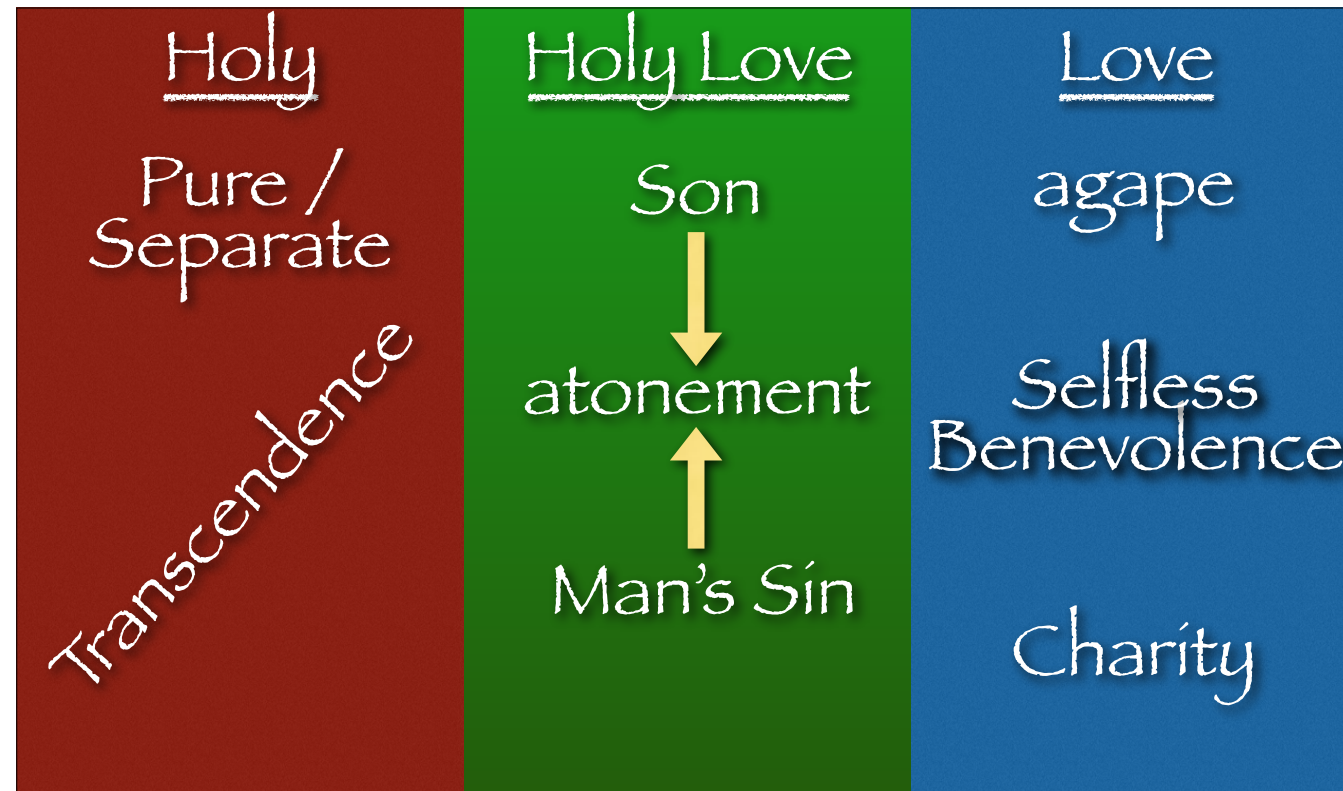
1 John 4:10: In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



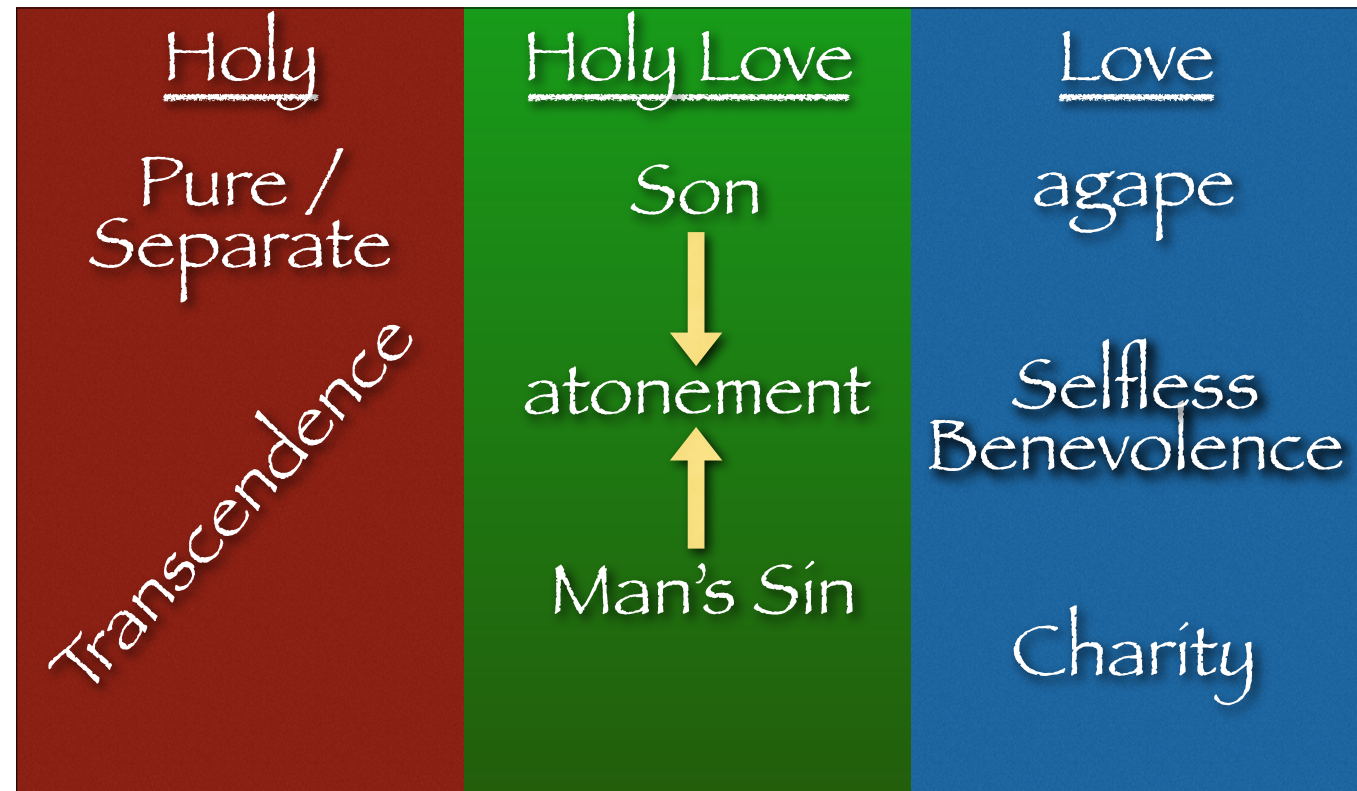


This is what holy love is really about: our salvation

1 John 3:16: By this we **know** love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.



1 John 4:8–10: because God is love. In this the love of God was **made manifest** among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might **live** through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.

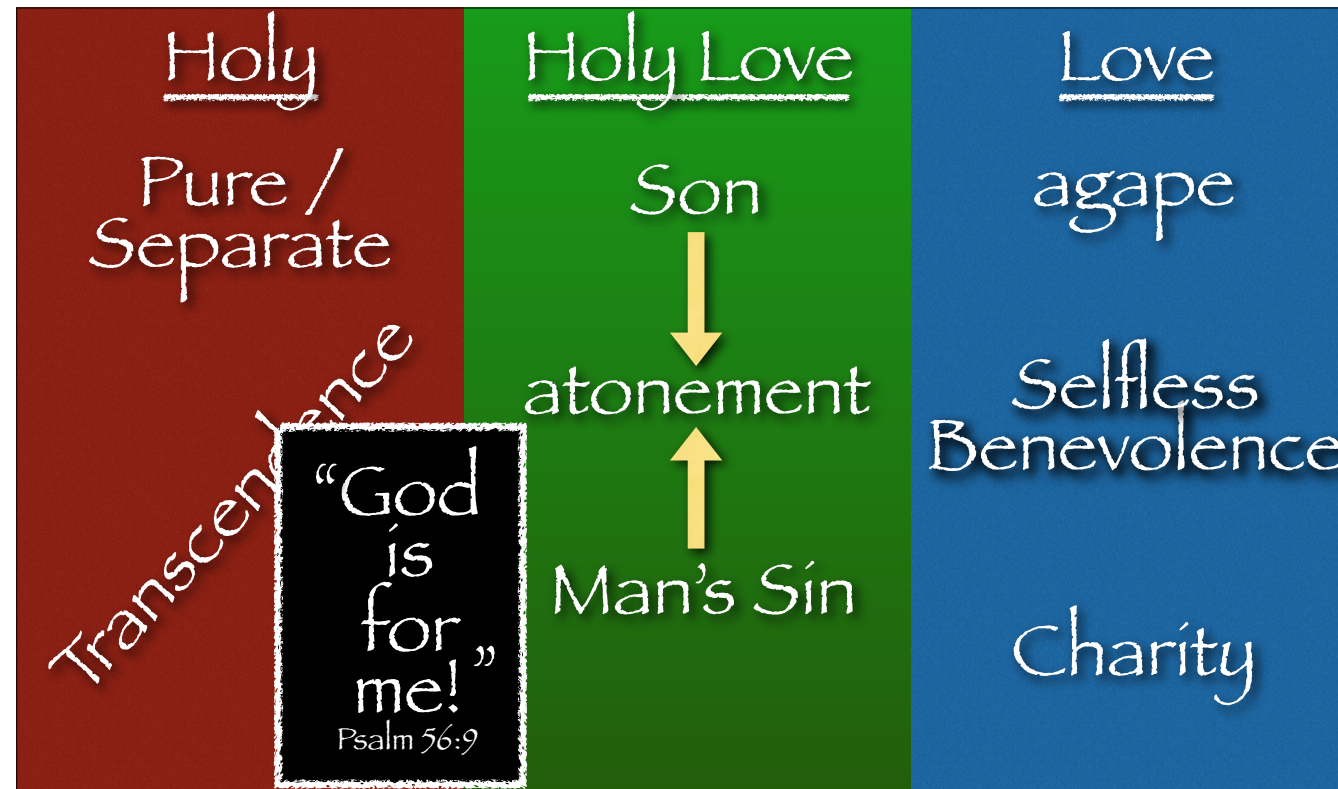


Romans 5:6–8

Death of Jesus was not just a man dying: **redeeming** death: **atoning** death

**Our Holy Father is more  
concerned about  
our holiness  
than our happiness.**

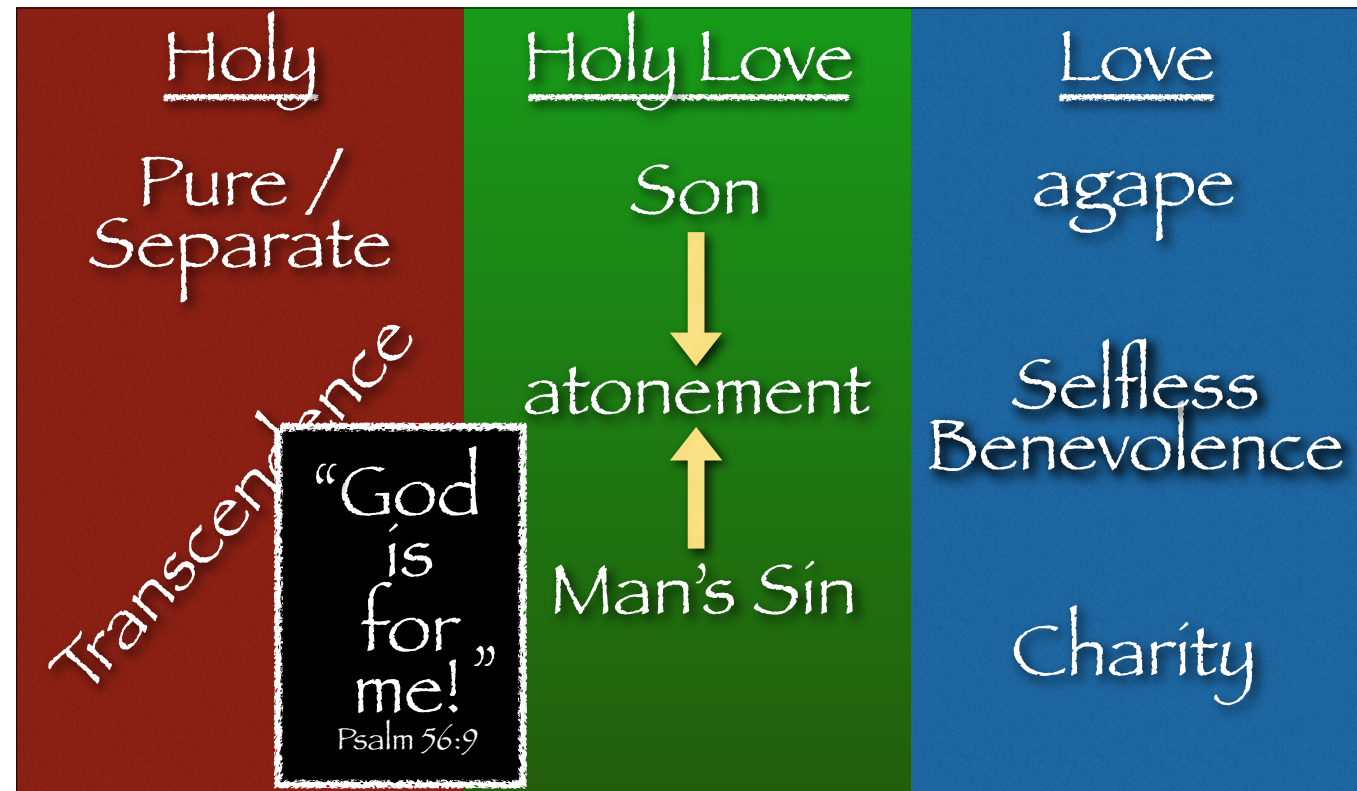
Our Holy Father is more concerned about our holiness than our happiness.



### Relying On and Trusting in God's Holy Love

1 John 4:14-16: 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

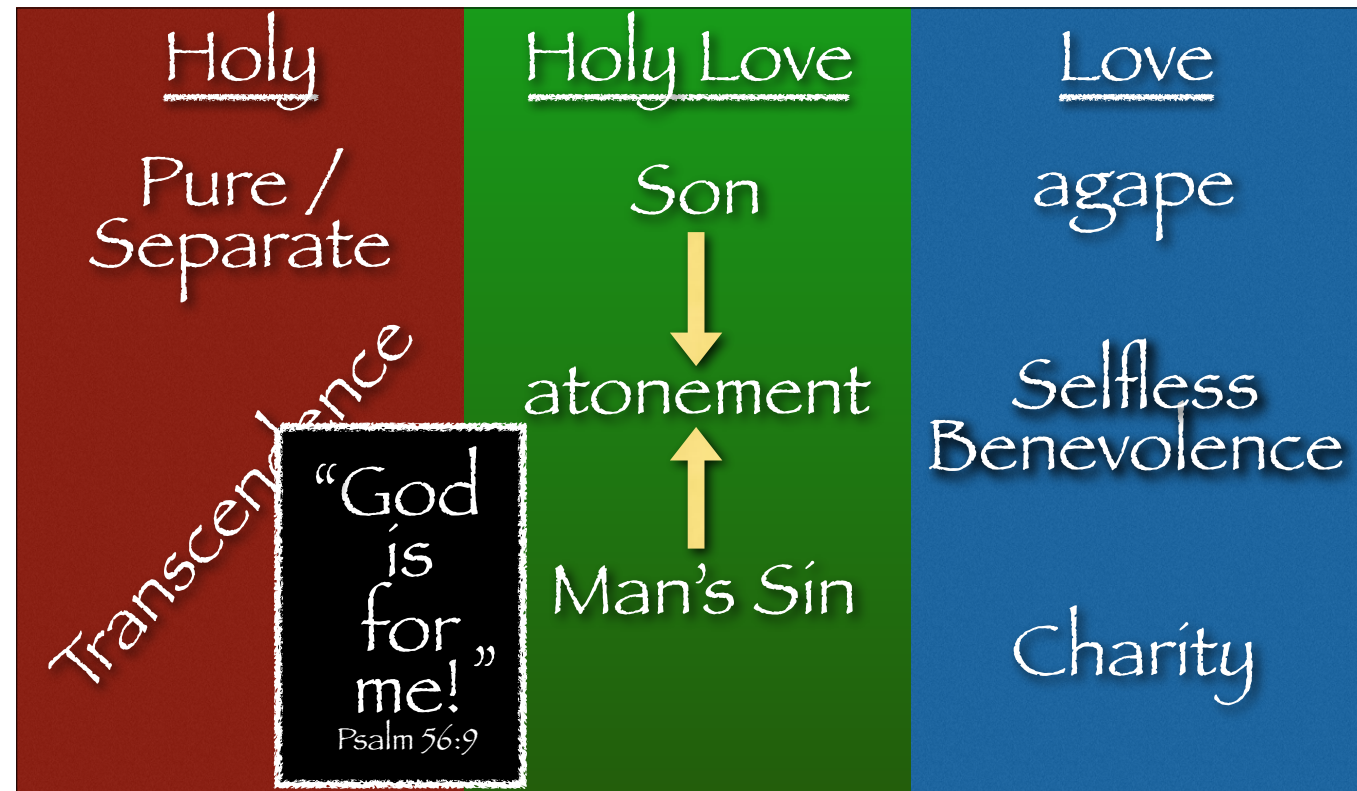
16: NIV And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.



16 So we have come to **know** and to **believe** the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

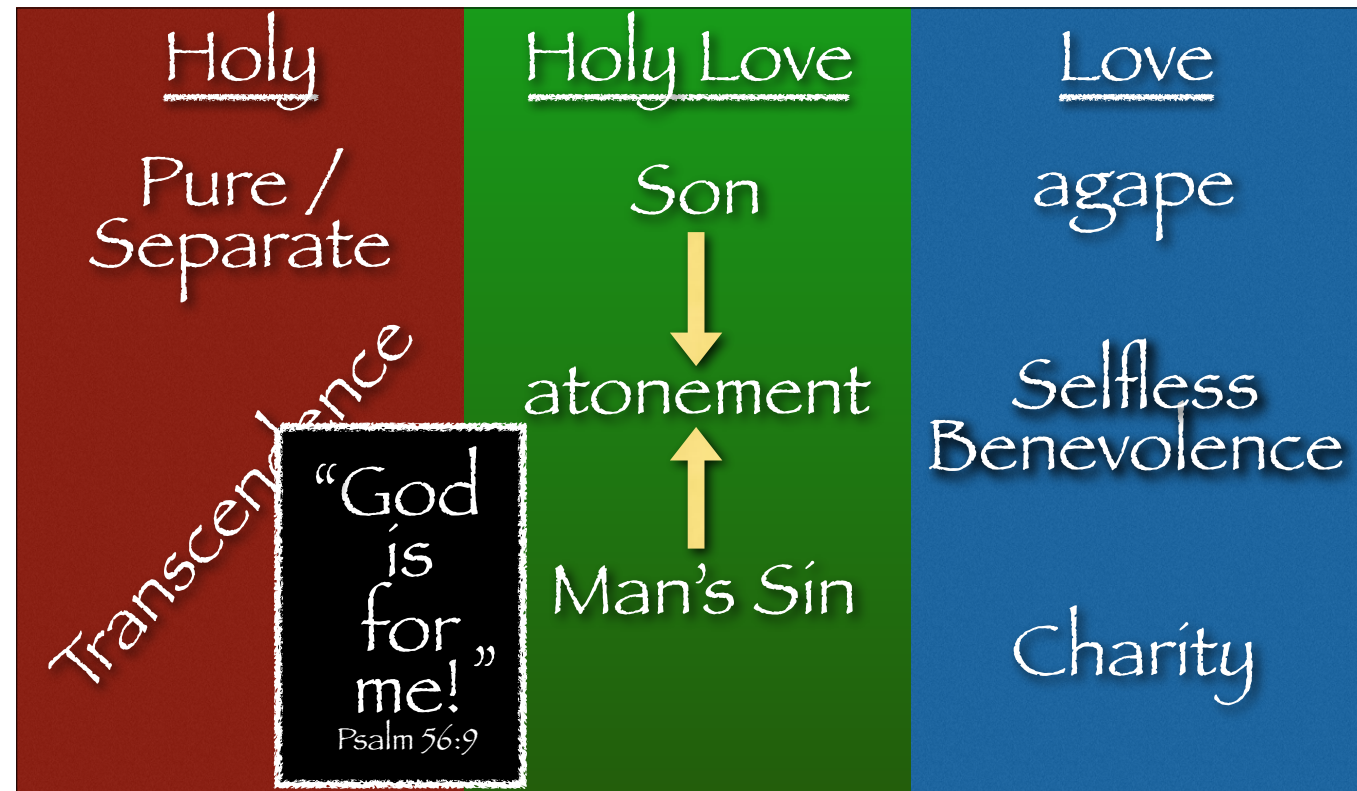
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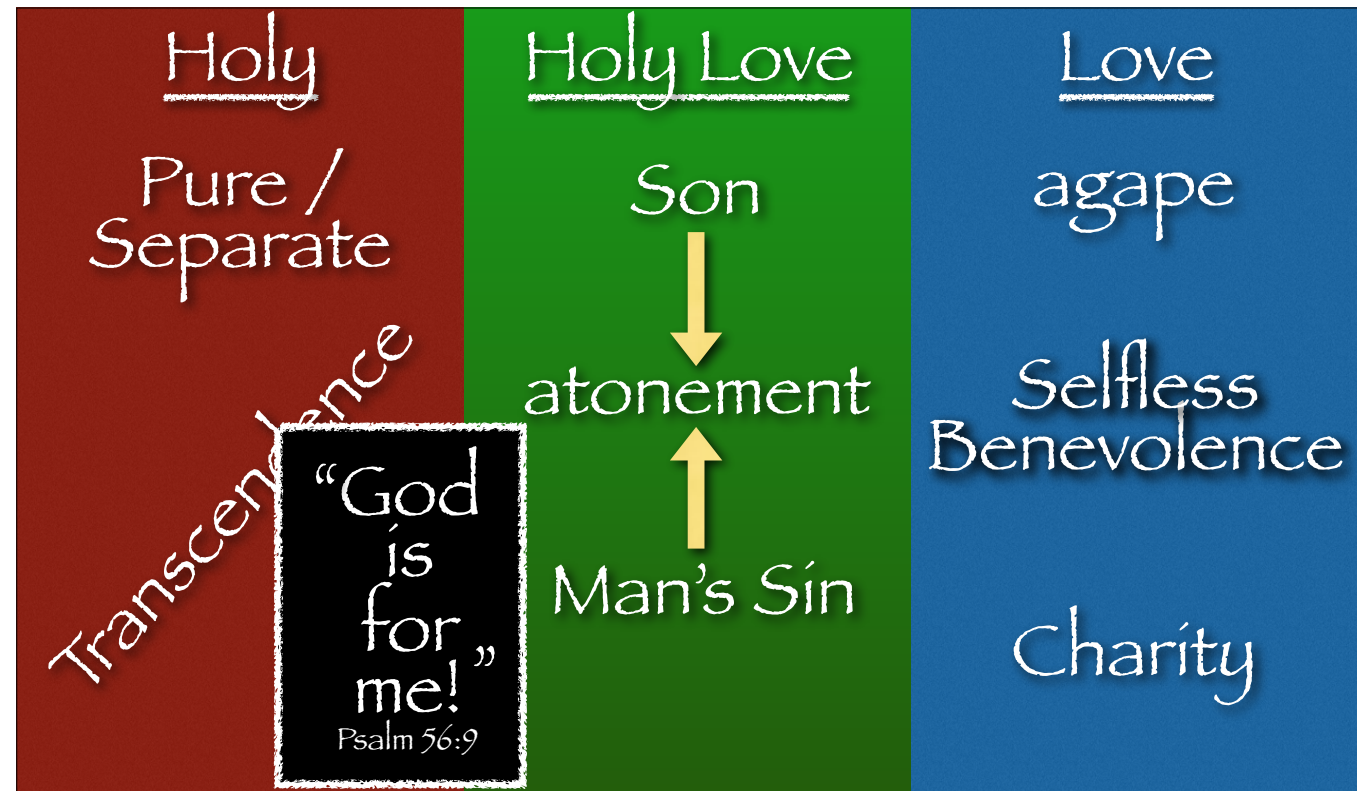
1 John 4:10: In this is love, **not that we have loved God but that he loved us** and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.





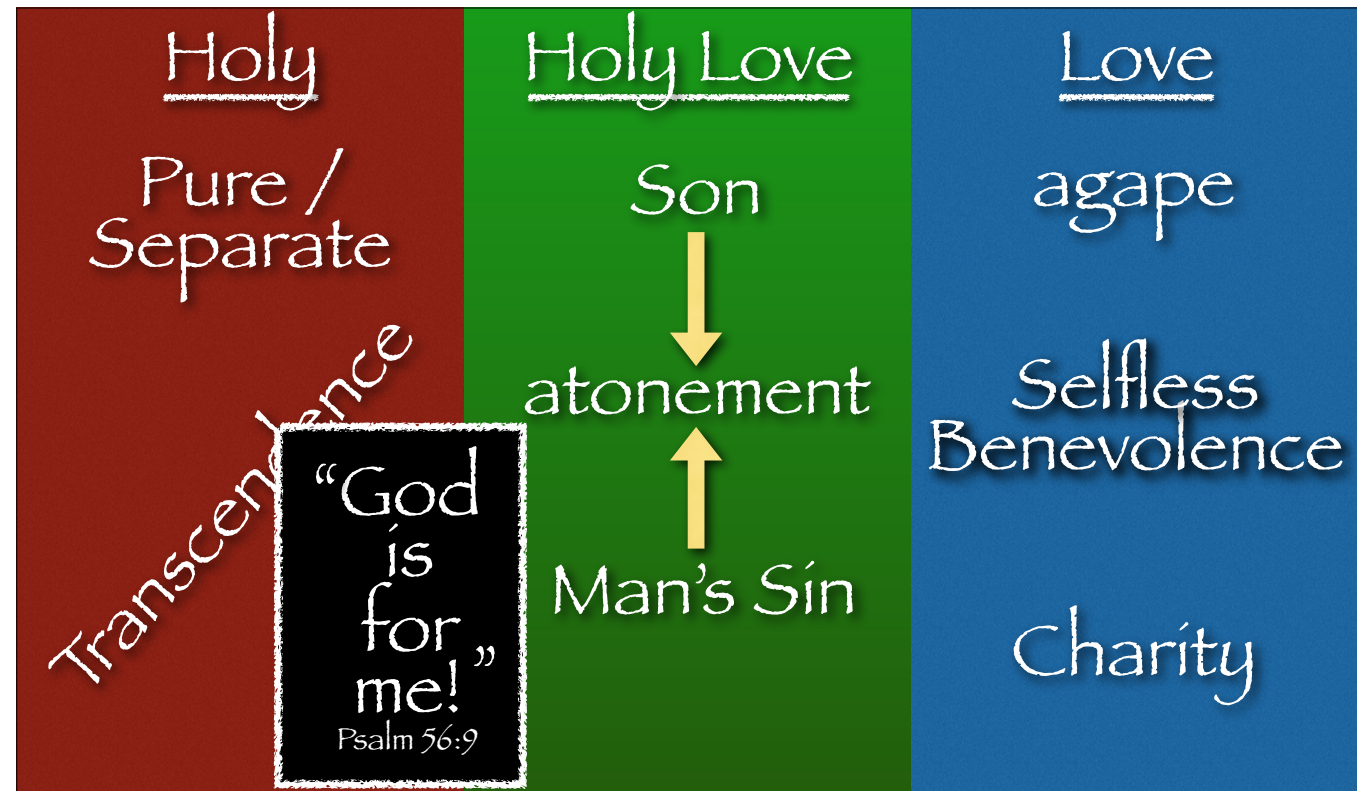
Before Salvation

Romans 5:6–8: we didn't care about God's love for us



Saved!

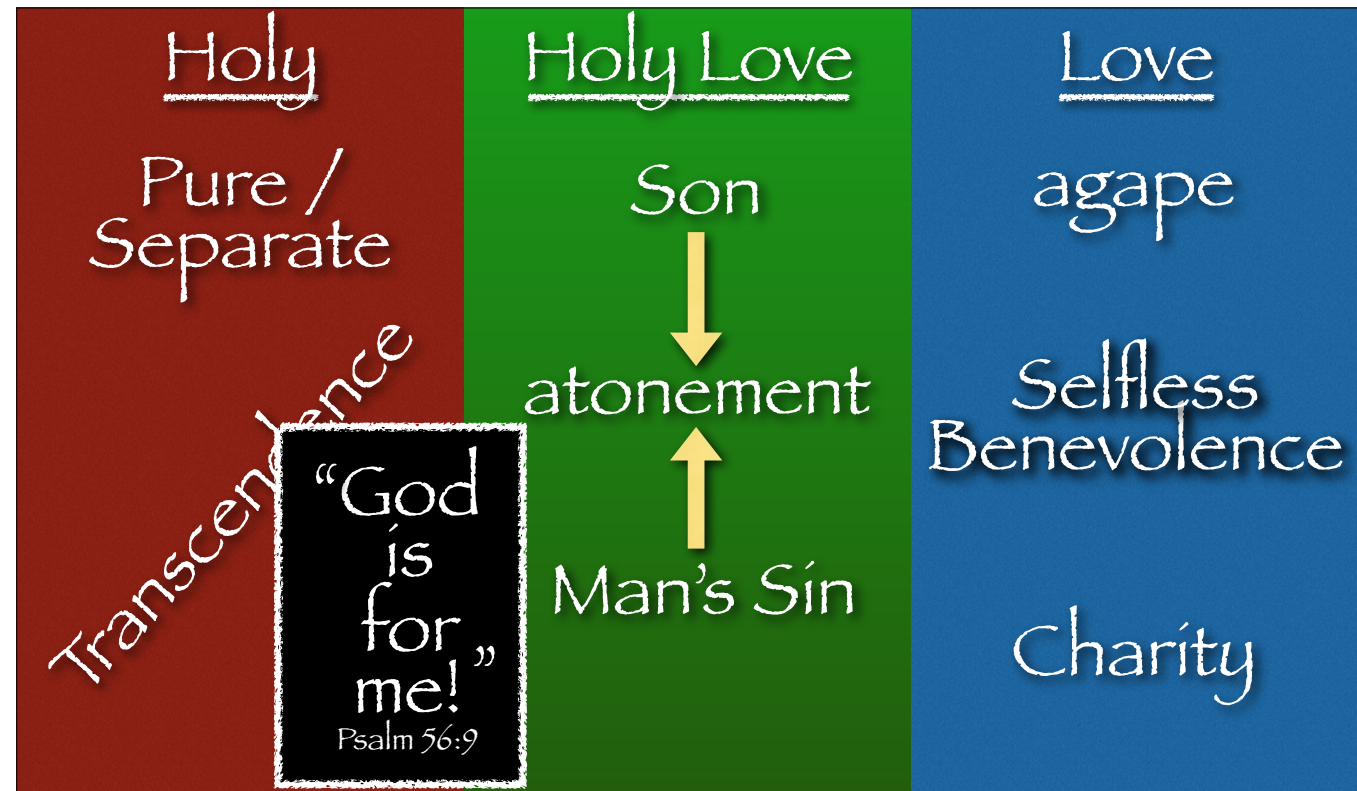
Our Father celebrates sinners who return: Luke 15!



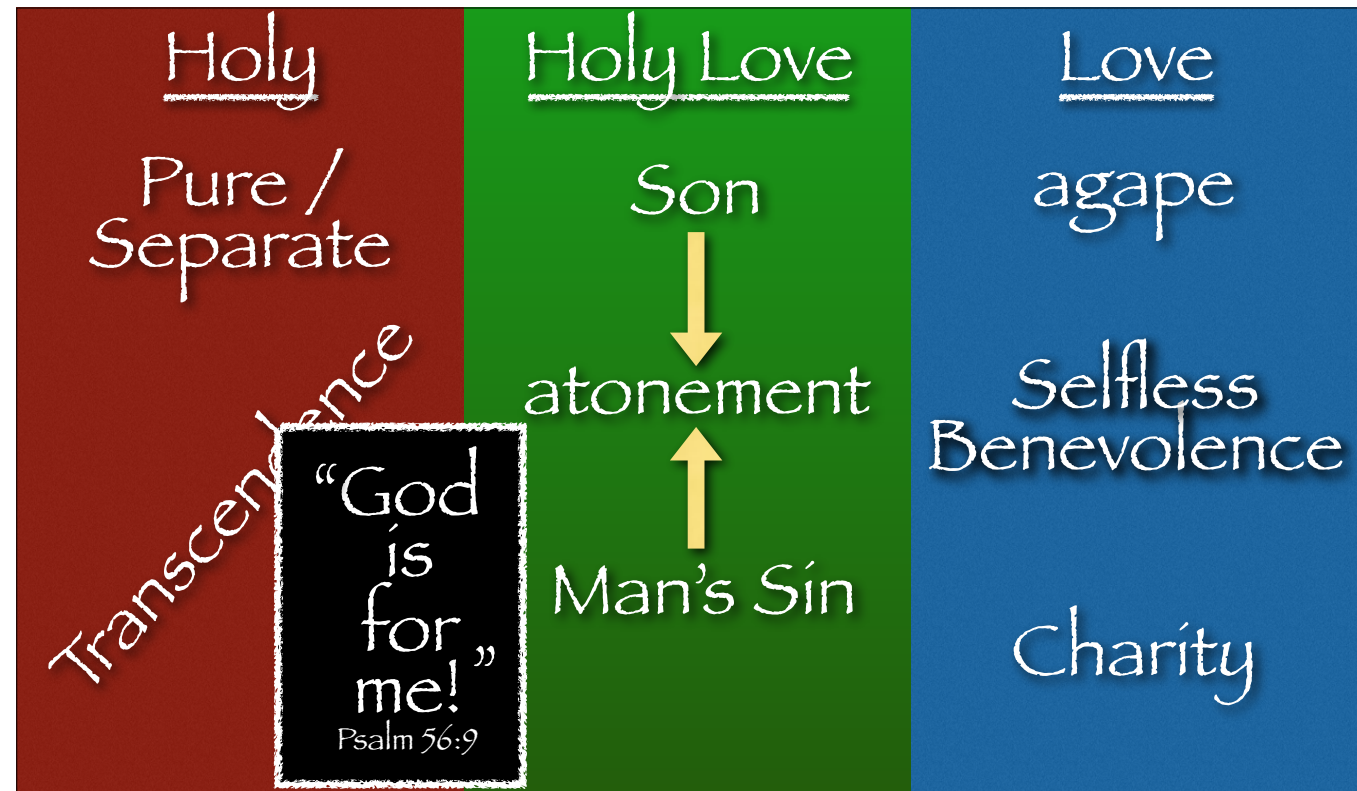
After Salvation

Church in Corinth

1 Corinthians 1:2: To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, called to be **saints** together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:



Corinth was a church, a group of Christians, with so many problems... we almost always remember their "issues" before anything else about them. Divided, fighting, questioning, doubting, arrogant, intolerant.

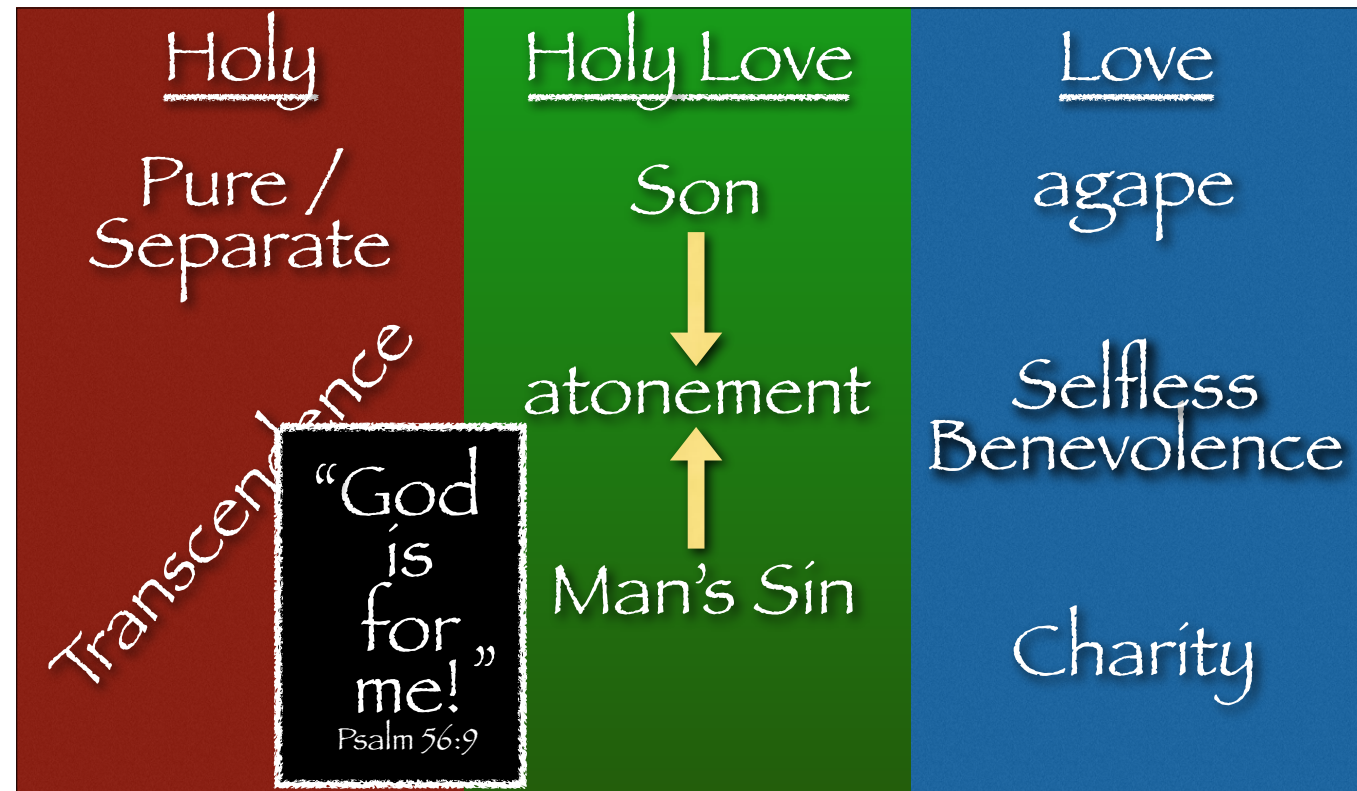


But they are sanctified, saints!

Inspired Paul does not say they are no longer worthy; he doesn't say that God doesn't love them. He does tell them that the greatest thing is love!

Holy love...





Psalms 56:9: This I know, that God is for me.

God is for you... doesn't approve of your sin: salvation in Jesus.

God is for you... does want eternal life for you, with Him.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**





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## Holy Love

Psalm 56:9

Synopsis: The false dichotomy of God's holiness and God's love that is often propagated in our society comes from a failure to fully understand what holiness means and what love means. When we understand these properly, we come to see that it is our Father's Holy Love that moves against our sin to provide life through His Son so that we can be holy as He is holy.

Based on thoughts from **The Dragon Slayer** by Jim McGuiggan, Chapter 9: So This Is Love?

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**