







# *Holiness as Righteousness*

- ❖ Several ideas are bound up in the notion of “righteousness”
  - Doing what is right; doing what is just; being vindicated or found innocent or being “justified” (legal sense)
  - Being faithful, as in God’s covenant faithfulness (relational sense)
- ❖ Righteousness is an expression of God’s character (Isaiah 5:16; Psalms 89:14-18)
  - What is right? What is just? Look to God.
  - God’s law is an expression of what is righteous.
- ❖ Righteousness is God’s standard for God’s people (Deuteronomy 6:24-25)
  - The Law is an expression of what a holy and righteous people will be.



# Obedience

- ❖ What has God always wanted?
  - An obedience that arises out of our faith in God!
- ❖ When the Jews got it right, they understood that God saved them (the Exodus) as an act of grace. The OT law showed them how to live in relationship with God.
  - Grace precedes the Law!
- ❖ Jesus did not abolish the Law (Matt 5:17-18). He called his disciples to a deeper and true understanding of the law and the Kingdom of God.
  - Jesus called his disciples to obedience. Paul constantly fought against those who said that God's grace meant that "anything goes." We are called to be holy – to live in right relationship with God, which is true peace.





## *What do we really mean by God's love?*

- ❖ God's love is bound up with God's holiness.
  - Exodus 15:11,13 – “steadfast love” translates the Hebrew word, *hesed*
    - A very rich covenant word; steadfast love, faithful love, loving kindness, mercy
- ❖ Love in the New Testament
  - *Agape* in the Greek – expresses the unconditional self-giving love of God
    - Not *eros*, romantic or physical love; not *phileo*, friendship or family love
- ❖ God's love is faithfulness rooted in self-sacrifice; it is action, never sentimentality







