

A Jealous God; Exodus 20:1-6

I. Jealousy

- A. This is not something we would normally think of as an attribute of God
- B. We read the Old Testament Scriptures that tell us God is a jealous God
- C. But we also read the New Testament Scriptures that tell us to put away Jealousy
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 13:4; Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, (NASB95)
 - 2. James 3:13–16; 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.
 - 3. Acts 17:4–5; 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. 5 But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.
 - 4. Romans 13:12–14; 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
- D. Clearly, according to these Scriptures, jealousy is something we are not supposed to have
- E. The Hebrew word means; fiercely protective and unaccepting of disloyalty
- F. The Greek word means; a greedy prideful longing for something that belongs to another; even something intangible, such as a skill
- G. I can see a big difference between the Hebrew and Greek words
- H. However, there is another idea presented to us in Scripture
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 11:1–3; 11 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! 2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- I. “Divine” - Godly
- J. There is a Godly jealousy, just as there is a righteous anger

II. Divine

- A. God is the only one worthy of our worship and He knows it
 - 1. Exodus 34:11–16; 11 “Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 12 Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. 13 You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), 15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice,

16 and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whose after their gods and make your sons whose after their gods.

- B. I struggled with whether or not I should use the ESV translation here because of the harsh wording; other translations used “harlot” or “prostitute”
- C. But considering the definition of the word “jealous” I thought this harshness preferable so we could really understand God’s jealousy toward us
- D. His name is “jealous,” “fiercely protective and unaccepting of disloyalty”
 - 1. Zechariah 1:12–15; 12 Then the angel of the Lord said, ‘O Lord of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?’ 13 And the Lord answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. 14 So the angel who talked with me said to me, ‘Cry out, Thus says the Lord of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion. 15 And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster.
- E. God was so demanding of loyalty that he sent the Israelites into captivity for 70 years

III. Captivity

- A. Just as idolatry held Israel captive, we are held captive as well
- B. “The classic definition of idolatry was formulated by Augustine: Idolatry is worshiping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that is meant to be worshiped.” Hamilton
- C. “In the origin of idolatry we may find a lesson for our guidance with regard to the misuse of things in themselves lawful, and the perversion of ideas in themselves unobjectionable.” Joseph Exell
- D. “But as all out-ward figures or images of God are forbidden, so it must be considered that every substitute for God, as an object of adoration and love, is also forbidden, for God requires the supreme homage of the heart.” Joseph Exell
 - 1. Colossians 2:8; See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
 - 2. Luke 4:18–19; 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
- E. Are we being held captive?
 - 1. Philosophy - the love or pursuit of wisdom
 - a) According to human tradition - not the love or pursuit of Godly wisdom!
 - b) Seeking knowledge for knowledge’s sake
 - 2. Love
 - a) Not Godly love, but a love of self; love for our own pleasure
 - b) It could be of a person
 - c) It could be of an object
 - 3. Money
 - a) Hebrews 13:5; Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
 - 4. Prestige or power
 - a) 1 Peter 5:6; Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
- F. The bottom line is this; nothing comes before God
 - 1. God’s name is Jealous!

2. He does not tolerate disloyalty!

3. He will not share the throne of your life with anything else!

IV. In Your Life

A. Where is God in your life?

B. Just somewhere hanging around like a trinket on your shelf?

C. On the throne of your life receiving glory and honor from you?