

I Believe in God who is Jealous

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There are two types of jealousy. **The first type of jealousy is a clear vice – a sin.** This jealousy is an obsession with the possession of others. It is kind envy of what others have. This person might say: “I hate that you have what I don’t have and I want it.” **This type of jealousy is childish and evidences a spiritual immaturity.**

But there is a good or proper jealousy. This is like when a husband is angry **when his wife puts another man on the throne of her heart.** (Of course this is not perfect jealousy as that man is probably guilty of committing a similar sin against his wife.) But this type of jealousy is not treated as a vice in God’s sight but as **a virtue.** (Wouldn’t it be a shame if a man’s wife shows affection to another and he doesn’t care?) **This 2nd type of proper jealousy is one of God’s attributes.**

Our headings are:

The Doctrine of God’s Jealousy explained

The Doctrine of God’s Jealousy illustrated

The Doctrine of God’s Jealousy applied

Our goals are: That after considering God’s perfect jealousy, you will long to love him with a most passionate love that is seen in true worship and faithful obedience!

The Doctrine of God’s Jealousy

1. God is perfectly jealous when his Bride puts another god on the throne of her heart – a place where he ought to be.

This was one of the first things God said when he entered officially into covenant with his people as they left Egypt.

Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. **For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,** visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

God is so jealous that he named himself Jealous.

Exodus 34:13 But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images 14 '(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, **whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God,**)

2. Why is God’s jealousy so strong?

God’s jealousy is strong because his honor and his kingdom are at stake. If his Bride is unfaithful his honor will disappear and his kingdom would stall. An unfaithful bride would never produce godly seed.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the LORD of host Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

God wants glory and would get none if his bride is filthy. How could she produce godly seed?

3. Unfortunately, Israel often made God jealous by running after other gods.

Deuteronomy 32:15 "**But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick,** You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation. **16 They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods;** With abominations they provoked Him to anger. **17 They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.** **18 Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.**

God called his people Jeshurun (upright one) to mock Israel. They ate God's food and became fat and careless. Fat people couldn't work as well so the kingdom work stalled.

Psalms 78:58 For they **provoked Him to anger with their high** places, And **moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.**

4. God's jealousy made him very angry and forced him to act.

Joshua 24:19...Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. **20 "If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good."**

There is always action when one is jealous.

5. But a jealous God responded with punishment for his bride in order to protect her, not to totally destroy her.

If a man's wife were unfaithful, she was executed. Numbers 5. In God's case he found that his bride was unfaithful. Yet, he loved his bride so much! He gave her everything she needed and would have given her more if she asked. He gave her the world, yet she betrayed his trust and love. But instead of executing her, God provided someone to die in her place. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. God's jealousy was satiated by Christ's suffering.

The Doctrine of God's Jealousy illustrated

1. Let's consider God's jealousy in pictures from Ezekiel.

Yes, God used his majestic power to punish his betraying bride.

Ezekiel 8:2 Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire — from the appearance of His waist and downward, **fire**; and from His waist and upward, like the **appearance of brightness**, like the **color of amber**. 3 He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the **seat of the image of jealousy** was, which **provokes to jealousy**. 4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain.

Jealousy came not in green, but in amber – the color of fire. **God's jealousy resulted in fury**. He was perfectly faithful but his bride was not. He could not stand the thought that his own bride whom he had redeemed from prostitution, left bloodied and beaten, and to whom he had given everything she needed, would turn and prostitute herself to other gods...

He loved her. She loved money. She loved creature comforts. She loved herself. She ignored the one who did everything for her. **No wonder God was on fire...raging angry fire!**

But sending her into captivity was not justice. In **reality that was for her preservation.** **Sending Jesus to the cross for her was justice.** Remember the Lord's words to the church in Laodicea.

Revelation 3:19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

2. Let us consider God's jealousy pictured for us in the life of Hosea.

Hosea 1:2 When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the LORD." 8 Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. 9 Then God said: "Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.

Hosea wrote just before the northern 10 ½ tribes of Israel were taken into captivity by the Assyrians. He warned them against their prostitution to foreign gods. To do this, **God required that Hosea take a prostitute for his wife.** He did this to illustrate what Israel had become. A holy prophet (who represented God) had to be joined with a wicked woman (Israel). And her son was named "not my people" (Lo-Ruhamah) to teach Israel that God had rejected them in his jealousy.

Because Israel would not listen to the life lesson offered by Hosea, they were sent into Assyrian captivity – like a betrayed man might send his wife away. The Assyrians then brought foreigners to fill their place in Israel.

3. Let us consider God's jealousy pictured for us in the rescue of a poor abused young woman.

Ezekiel 16:8 ... I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD. 9 "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. 10 "I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 "I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. 12 "And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 "Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. 14 "Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD. 15 **"But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame,** and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it.

Look at what God promised to do after this young bride betrayed him.

Ezekiel 16:38 "And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; **I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy.** 39 "I will also **give you into their hand,** and they shall throw down your shrines and break down your high places. They shall also **strip you of your clothes, take your beautiful jewelry, and leave you naked and bare.** 42 "So **I will lay to rest My fury toward you,** and My jealousy shall depart from you. I will be quiet, and be angry no more.

God takes his betrayal of his pure and perfect love very seriously. He has the hottest anger against those who betray him, even more than he has against those who have no relationship with him at all.

The Doctrine of God's Jealous Applied

1. You must think of God's jealousy.

When you think of God's jealousy you will realize how pure his love is and how bad the church's betrayal of him is. God's pure love was evidence most clearly on the cross...the means of your new clothes of righteousness.

2. You will then have true zeal and total loyalty to him.

You will love what he loves. You will seek what he seeks. You will have a burning desire to please him. You will come to meet him in the proper dress – the righteousness of Jesus!

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

This will prevent God from being jealous in the future.

Numbers 25:11 "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal.

It doesn't matter if you are sick or well. It doesn't matter if people mock you or you if you lose a job. It doesn't matter if your parents don't support you. It doesn't matter if you are poor. Keep your eyes only on the one who truly loves you and has you as his bride.

3. The church must repent without delay because she has made God jealous.

There is no question the church is in great danger of judgment today because of her idolatry and we are seeing it.

4. If you are not zealous for God and prevent his jealousy, he threatens judgment on you.

Remember what we just read:

Joshua 24:20 "**If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods**, then He will turn and **do you harm and consume** you, after He has done you good."

There is no ambiguity is what Joshua wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God hates betrayal. And God would break off that relationship and destroy that unfaithful bride. But there is another encouragement from Joshua. He was convinced that serving the Lord faithfully was the best thing he and his family he could do. He said: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." More, the 2nd Joshua, Jesus, not only served his Father, but he gave his life to pay for your betrayal.

Conclusion:

God is a perfectly jealous God. Because he is perfectly pure, **has a right to be jealous** if his wife abandons him. He illustrated that many times in the Scriptures. **But he also shows reveals great blessings for those who remain faithful and serve him.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus:

1. Beyond doubt the church has run after other gods. Some of the more popular gods are **worldly approval** (this one is very popular), **craving for what we want or lust for, self-love**, and **financial profit**. These gods make God jealous and are bringing God's wrath on his church. The church has sometimes forgotten Jesus' bloody cross and how we were made clean. This is why the church has run after other gods.

2. The church needs to get a sense of God's anger and our betrayal of him...and know the danger we are in. God may even take away what you are treating as a god – **that thing you**

treated as a god!!! Be warned.

3. Being aware of the danger now, you and the church must repent of holding on to other gods and instead, turn, hold on to, and passionate serve the Lord.

Finally: If you want a God who will love you, provide for you, and save you for eternity, then look to the Lord Jesus. Ask him to remove your sins and to work in your heart so you can **see what he has done for sinners** and help you to **believe what he has done for sinners.**