

Attributes of God

Week 6 – Jealousy and Wrath

“Were we imaging a God, then naturally we should ascribe to Him only characteristics which we admired, and jealousy would not enter the picture. Nobody would imagine a jealous God. But we are not making up an idea of God by drawing on our imagination; we are seeking instead to listen to the words of Holy Scripture, in which God Himself tells us the truth about Himself.” – J.I. Packer

Jealousy: God’s limitless and fervent **zeal** to **glorify** Himself in the lives of His people.

“God is not jealous like an insecure employer who fears that his employees might get lured away by a better salary elsewhere. God’s jealousy is not the reflex of weakness or fear. Instead God is jealous like a powerful and merciful king who takes a peasant girl from a life of shame, forgives her, marries her, and gives her not the chores of a slave, but the privileges of a wife – a queen. His jealousy does not rise from fear or weakness but from a holy indignation at having His honor and power and mercy scorned by the faithlessness of a fickle spouse.” – John Piper

1. God is **exclusive** (Exodus 20:4-6, 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:23-24, 1 Cor. 10:22, Psalm 78:58, Isa. 40-48, Eze. 36:21)

“Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed Himself in the Word.” – Heidelberg Catechism

2. God is **chastening** (Hebrews 12:6; 1 Corinthians 11:30; 1 Samuel 7:14-15; Romans 5:9, 8:1)

3. God is **protective** (Exodus 34:14, 2 Corinthians 11:2)

4. God is **avenging** (Isaiah 42:13, Nahum 1:2, Acts 12:23)

You may be asking:

- Does God's jealousy contradict His sovereignty? If God is all-powerful and in control of everything, why does He need to be jealous of His people's worship and devotion?

“God’s jealousy is not a compound of frustration, envy and spite, as human jealousy so often is, but appears instead as a (literally) praiseworthy zeal to preserve something supremely precious.” – J.I. Packer

Take aways – Jealousy

1. Regularly examine yourself. Are you provoking God’s jealousy?

“Remember that you serve a jealous God, and be very careful not to provoke Him to jealousy. Every idol must be cast down, or His comfortable Presence cannot be enjoyed.” – Charles Spurgeon

2. God’s jealousy commends proper imitation. Be zealous for Him.

“A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing... He sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed-up in one thing ... and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory.” – J.C. Ryle

3. Be thankful that God is jealous for you.

“Hide yourselves under the banner of Jehovah’s jealousy. It is bloody red, I know; its ensign bears a thunderbolt and a flame of fire; but hide yourselves, hide yourselves under it, for what enemy shall reach you there? If it be to God’s glory to save me, I am entrenched behind munitions of stupendous rock.” – Charles Spurgeon

Wrath: God's holy and just response to sin and evil.

"A study of the concordance will show that there are more references in Scripture to the anger, fury, and wrath of God, than there are to His love and tenderness." – A.W. Pink

"God's wrath is not the ignoble outburst that human anger so often is, a sign of pride and weakness, but it is holiness reacting to evil in a way that is morally right and glorious." – J.I. Packer

1. God's wrath is provoked by sin (Deuteronomy 9:7-8)
2. God's wrath is a just response to sin (Nahum 1:3; Romans 1:18, 2:5-6)

"[God] would be unjust if He were passive or indifferent toward the evil things people do. Wrath is the only just response to wickedness." – John MacArthur

3. God's wrath is a necessary expression of His holiness (Habakkuk 1:13)

"[God's wrath] is the holiness of God stirred into activity against sin... Because God is holy He hates sin, and because He hates sin His anger burns against the sinner." – A.W. Pink

4. Types of God's wrath:

- a. Eschatological wrath: God's wrath that will be poured out at the end of time (Revelation 6:16-17)
- b. Cataclysmic wrath: God's wrath unleashed through natural disasters (Numbers 16:31-35, Genesis 19)
- c. Consequential wrath: God's wrath experienced through "reaping and sowing" (Acts 5, Hosea 8:7)
- d. Abandonment wrath: God's wrath by removing His restraining grace (Romans 1:24-32)
- e. Eternal wrath: God's final wrath unleashed on unbelievers in hell (Revelation 20:11-15, Matthew 25:41-46)
- f. Redemptive wrath: God's wrath poured out on Christ to save His people from their sins (1 Peter 2:24, Isa. 53:10)

5. God's wrath is tempered by His mercy (Psalm 2:10-12, Romans 2:4)

6. For believers, God's wrath is satisfied in Christ (Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 1:10)

"Not all the vials of judgment that have or shall be poured out upon the wicked world, nor the flaming furnace of a sinner's conscience, nor the irreversible sentence pronounced against the rebellious demons, nor the groans of the damned creatures – give such a demonstration of God's hatred of sin – as the wrath of God let loose upon His Son! Never did divine holiness appear more beautiful and lovely than at the time our Savior's countenance was most marred in the midst of His dying groans – when God had turned His smiling face from Him, and thrust His sharp knife into His heart, which forced that terrible cry from Him, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me!' – Stephen Charnock

You may be asking:

- How can eternal wrath be necessary to pay for the sins of a finite person who dies in unbelief?

Take aways – Wrath

1. Are you ready?
2. Don't ignore or dismiss the reality of God's wrath. Allow this truth to humble you.

"Now, sinner, is it not most reasonable that if you would find peace with God you should cease from that which provokes Him? Are you to go on thus vexing Him and yet expect Him to bless you?" – Charles Spurgeon