

Jealousy and Zeal

What is Jealousy?

- Being very watchful in guarding or keeping
- An intense feeling produced when one feels they are being unfairly deprived of what is rightfully theirs
- In Hebrew, the word carries the idea of boiling

Jealousy

⁶ Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. - Song of Solomon 8:6 (ESV)

⁴ Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy? - Proverbs 27:4 (ESV)

Avoid Envy and Jealousy

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. - Romans 13:13 (ESV)

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant - 1 Corinthians 13:4 (ESV)

Do not Envy the Wicked

¹ Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them, ² for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble. -
Proverbs 24:1–2 (ESV)

“Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.” (Proverbs 24:19–20, ESV)

“Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.” (Proverbs 23:17–18, ESV)

Avoid Envy and Jealousy

“A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.” (Proverbs 14:30, ESV)

“for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?” (1 Corinthians 3:3, ESV)

Things of which we are Jealous

Others'

- ... Success
- ... Wealth
- ... Popularity/Influence
- ... Position
- ... Talents
- ... Appearance
- ... Reputation

Do Not Provoke Jealousy

- In God – 1 Corinthians 10:21-22
 - By idolatry

1 Corinthians 10:21–22, ESV

“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?”

Do Not Provoke Jealousy

- In God – 1 Corinthians 10:21-22
 - By idolatry
- In Others
 - By showing partiality
 - By neglecting some
 - Provoking jealousy is a work of the flesh – Galatians 5:20

Galatians 5:19–20, ESV

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

God's Jealousy

- God's name is Jealous! - Ex. 34:14; 20:5

God is Jealous

for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God, (Exodus 34:14, ESV)

You shall not bow down to them or 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 the fourth generation of those who hate me, (Exodus 20:5, ESV)

God's Jealousy

- God's name is Jealous! - Ex. 34:14; 20:5
- That makes it difficult to serve Him without strong commitment – Josh. 24:19-20

Joshua 24:19–20, ESV

But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.”

God's Jealousy

- God's name is Jealous! - Ex. 34:14; 20:5
- That makes it difficult to serve Him without strong commitment – Josh. 24:19-20
- The warnings fulfilled - 1 Kings 14:21-22; Ps. 78:56-59; Ezek. 8:1-6,18

1 Kings 14:21-22, ESV

Now Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah.

Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite. And Judah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins that they committed, more than all that their fathers had done.

Psalm 78:56–59, ESV

Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies, but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow. For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols. When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel.

Ezekiel 8:3–6 (ESV)

3 He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy. ... 6 And he said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see still greater abominations.”

Don't be Jealous, Be Zealous!

- Jealousy - An intense feeling produced when one feels they are being unfairly deprived of what is rightfully theirs
- Zeal - An intense desire to insure that the object of one's loyalty is not deprived of anything that is rightfully theirs

Proverbs 23:17 (NKJV)

Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day;

Paraphrase: Do not let your heart burn with envy for sinners, but with the fear of the LORD all the day;

God is Zealous

- His zeal restores Israel – 2 Kings 19:29-31
- His zeal established Christ – Is. 9:6-7
- God is clothed with zeal – Is. 59:15-17
- Jesus is zealous for the house of God – John 2:13-17

Zeal can be Misdirected

- Saul for the children of Israel – 2 Sam. 21:1-2
- Jews had zeal without knowledge – Rom 10:1-2
- Saul of Tarsus shared in that – Acts 22:3-5
- Any zeal is misdirected if it is greater than our zeal for God

For what should we be Zealous?

- God – 1 Kings 19:9-10
- God's word – Psalm 119:139
- God's house – Psalm 69:6-9
- Giving - 2 Corinthians 9:1-2
- Good works – Titus 2:14
- Christian life – Romans 12:11

How to Gain Zeal

- Pray for zeal
- Spend time with zealous Christians
- Think about the injuries the cause of Christ has suffered
- Think about sin and the lost
- Think of our own salvation

What Upsets You More?

- Someone slanders the reputation of your father
- An adulterer starts flirting with your spouse
- A con artist swindles an older relative out of their retirement
- Someone blasphemes your Heavenly Father
- The church where you worship starts slipping into worldliness
- A false teacher steals the truth from the hearts of the faithful

What Upsets You More?

- Someone tries to kidnap your children
- A terrorist bombs a building in your town
- The world tries to abduct the minds and souls of your children
- A divisive person splits the church where you worship

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