

Attributes of God
The Jealousy of God

"For the Lord, whose name is jealous, is a jealous God."-Exodus 34:14.

- I. Introduction.
 - A. What is Jealousy?
 1. It is defined as envy towards another because of something they have that you want, or a lack of trust in another that can become growing feelings of insecurity. It is somewhat embarrassing for some believers to think of God being jealous of us, or jealous in any way, but His jealousy, as we will see, is not our jealousy.
 2. To put it in perspective with some of His other attributes we have studied, God's jealousy is good, God's jealousy is wise, and God's jealousy is holy.
 - B. Think about that. As His other attributes are perfect so His jealousy in regard to us is perfect. What does that mean? Let's try and find out.
- II. The Jealousy of God - Exodus 34:14.
 - A. God is Jealous of His **Deity**.
 1. When the law was given at Mt. Sinai, the second commandment represented divine jealousy - "*Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*"
 - a) Since he is the only God, the Creator of heaven and earth, he cannot endure that any other should wear His crown.
 - b) In Ezekiel we find the false god described as "... *the idol that provokes to jealousy,*" and the doom on Jerusalem for turning from God = "*I will not look on them with pity or spare them, but I will bring down on their own heads what they have done.*"
 - c) False gods patiently endure the existence of other false gods.
 - (1) Dagon can stand next to Bel, and Bel next to Ashtaroth. How can mute stone, wood, and silver idols take offense?
 - (2) God is the only living and true God, so Dagon (Philistines) fell before His ark, Bel (Babylon) was broken, and Ashtaroth consumed with fire.
 2. Can any human being **realistically** put themselves in God's place?
 - a) Suppose you made the heavens and the earth, and all that live and breathe in it. How would you feel if your creation set up an image of wood, brass, or gold, and said, "*These are the gods that made us; these are the things that gave us life. We must worship them.*"
 - b) How angry must the Lord be against those infatuated with false gods who set up almost anything as their god rather than acknowledge the one and only true God!
 3. We might wonder why God hasn't tossed thunderbolt at our world, when we consider how many millions of people have changed the glory of the incorruptible God into images made like man, birds, four-footed animals, or even creeping things.
 - (1) What righteous and just contempt must God have as He looks on the idols that are the work the hands of mankind.
 - (2) In reality, the history of the human race records the wars of the righteously jealous Lord against idolatry.
 - (a) Look at the piles of stone that used to be Nineveh or Babylon.
 - (b) Look at the sad and broken temples of Greece or the ruins of the godless Roman society. Where are they now? Where is God?
 4. Even *believers* can be criticized for idolatry that will activate God's righteous jealousy.
 - a) Why? God is jealous of his deity in the hearts of his own people. There can be "no other gods" before Him.
 - b) What will God say if your love for your child is greater than your love for Jesus? What if your love of your spouse is greater than your love for your Lord? What if some thing - anything - occupies that first place in your life that should be reserved for the Lord?
 - c) Part of His just jealousy is His primary spot in creation, part of the problem is anything other than Him that we put before Him is destined for decay, rot, and in the case of all human beings, death. God and God alone is the only person in a believers' life who can never be taken away.
 5. The final consideration here is a simple one. If we allow any particular created thing or person in this world (fill in the blank with your favorite here) we arouse the just jealousy of God because He and He alone comes first because He was, is, and always will be first and only He can help us balance, face and overcome the challenges the world places before us. It must start and end with God, because it did all start and it will all end with God..
 - B. God is Jealous of His **Sovereignty**.
 1. The God that made heaven and earth has the right to rule his creation as He wills - who would argue with that, right? But we do!
 - a) God is the biblical potter that has power over the clay (whether we acknowledge it or not!) to fashion it according to His will.
 - b) Sadly, humanity chooses often to ignore and revolt against His sovereignty, thinking that they are somehow or someway in a position to either control to tell God what to do. Foolishness of the highest order! Ps. 14:1 - "*The fool says in his heart there is no God.*"
 2. His sovereignty should remind us of His hatred of sin.
 - a) Every time we sin, we are saying in effect, "*I do not acknowledge God to be my sovereign; I will do as I please.*"
 - b) Each time we say something nasty about another believer we are saying, "*My tongue is my own to use as I please, God is not Lord over my lips.*"
 - c) The point: any time the human heart wanders into an area of sin, it tries to dethrone God and to set up Satan in His place.
 - (1) Sin says, "*Why should I obey His voice that comes from His word; I don't want God to reign over me.*"
 - (2) Sin is deliberate treason against God, an assault upon His crown, an insult aimed directly to His throne.
 - C. God is Jealous of His **Glory**.
 1. God's glory is the result of His perfect nature and perfect actions.
 - a) *How careful should we be when we do anything for God, and God is pleased to accept of our doings, that we never congratulate ourselves?*

(1) "You taught well," said a friend to a teacher one morning. "You are too late," the teacher said, "the devil told me that before I left the class." The temptation is to think you don't need God's help, that you can handle this!

(2) This activates His righteous jealousy because it is His teaching the person is taking credit for (like they thought of it). God desiring to be glorified is not an ego thing like humans desire, but the purest form of recognizing the truth of who He is and what He has done!

b) This keeps us from taking something for ourselves we just are not able to handle.

(1) Gracious glory in a human being, apart from a relationship to God through Christ, **does not exist!** We should be careful to walk humbly before God so as not to arouse His righteous jealousy and our own self-destruction.

(2) When we glorify ourselves (there is room for only **one** glory only in the universe) we set ourselves up as rivals to God - even as Satan has.

2. There is no ego we can accuse God of having He does **not** deserve or any glory that we have that we somehow **do** deserve that has been overlooked.

D. God is Jealous of His **Spiritual Children**.

1. He is jealous of His church

a) The covenant of grace in salvation which forms the basis of the church is a marriage-covenant; Christ's (God's) Church is His spouse.

(1) Mankind cannot and will not be God's beloved without a relationship to him in Christ. It is simply not possible.

(2) In Christ, God's love for the church finds its human analog in the love a Christian man has for his Christian wife. Anything else falls far short.

(3) And so, as a husband is jealous of his honor, so is the Lord Jesus (God the Son) jealous for the purity of His Church.

(a) Why? He chose you before the foundation of the universe to be His, and He will not accept that you would choose any other.

(b) The proof = did he not purchase our salvation with His own blood? What love could be greater than that? (John 15:13).

(c) He will not allow **any** of His to be taken away from Him by this world. He says as much in John 10:29.

(d) In the end, Jesus (God the Son) would rather die than have you perish in sin. And His righteous jealousy will do anything it has to keep you, so we must be careful as believers in Christ, as we, as part of His church, are married to a jealous husband!

2. He is also jealous of our company.

a) It were well if a Christian could see nothing but Christ.

(1) It is said when the wife of a Persian noble had been invited to the coronation of Darius as king, she was asked, "Isn't the king a handsome man?" Her answer, "I cared not to look at the king; my eyes are for my husband only, for my heart is his." The Christian should say the same!

(a) There is nothing in heaven or on earth comparable to Christ: there should be no one with whom we converse so much as with Jesus.

(b) However, when we "snuggle up" to the world, and find comfort in its embrace, this causes the righteous jealousy of God to awaken!

E. What does this mean to us?

1. God's jealousy is **good**.

a) The point is that because God is 100% good, His jealousy in any area is going to be 100% good. We can trust Him.

b) Unlike human jealousy (**not** 100% good), which is personally harmful at best and widely destructive at least there is little that is good about it!

c) How can we be jealous in God's good way? To live our lives in a way where our concerns for

2. God's jealousy is **wise**.

a) Again, God is 100% wise, so His jealousy is going to be at that same level of wisdom.

b) How about us? When the "red mist" of jealousy descends on any of us do we remain rational, calm, think things through and do what is right?

c) Hardly. Because humanity tends to think about themselves first, their jealousy comes from internal emotion, not wisdom.

3. God's jealousy is **holy**.

a) You know what is coming here, right? God is 100% holy, so His jealousy is 100% holy.

b) Feeling like it's not fair? If so, your jealousy is showing!

c) Another thing to think about in relation to this is that God's jealousy of His Deity, glory, sovereignty, and spiritual children is motivated by His perfect holiness. He cannot in any way ever be jealous of us in a negative way. Instead, He is jealous of us in a positive way, that is, He wants what is best for us just like any parent would want for their child.

III. Conclusion

A. The main reason I am not worried about what will happen to the church during the current pandemic is very simple - we have a very jealous "husband" who is looking out for the welfare of his "bride!"

1. Christ **has** never and **will** never let his Church be in danger of destruction. In fact, our Bibles tell us He was so jealous for His bride, He died for Her!

2. We are told the very gates of hell shall **not** prevail against His Church (Matt. 16:18). In the end, we will stand strong and victorious against them.

B. In the end, the perfectly jealous husband of the church will deliver us safe into the hands of eternity because **"We serve a jealous God!"**