

The Spirit of Jealousy - God

1 Corinthians 10:22

When looking at jealousy, we are all to aware of the examples around us. Why do children fight; why do teens get mean over boyfriends; why do husbands get angry when their wives talk to other men; why do churches get upset when new ones arrive in the area?

But it is important to know that there are 2 aspects to jealousy. One is from God's point of view, and the other is how it affects people.

To-day, we will concentrate on it from God's Perspective.

So what is jealousy, and what is it not? And is it jealousy, or is it envy?

Everyone knows envy. James 4: 5 - Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

Mark 15: 10 - For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.

There is another aspect to this. Zeal is an underlying, motivating factor, that compels people to act. Like compassion, it has to do something now.

John 2: 12 to 17 - After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days. And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. Now the meanings of words change with time. And many arguments have happened over them. So it is important for believers, especially KJV Only, to know the correct meaning of the words, both past and present.

In Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, under envy, it states that: The distinction lies in this, that "envy" desires to deprive another of what he has, "jealousy" desires to have the same or the same sort of thing for itself.

But in order to get a better grasp on the matter; why don't we just say that the root cause of jealousy is the desire to lovingly protect those under their care. And as we study this in the Bible, what can we learn?

Exodus 20: 1 to 6 - And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the

LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

First God establishes His claim on His people. He & He alone, brought them out of slavery. And Our Lord Jesus did the same at Calvary. John 8: 36 -

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

In Africa, there was a custom that if you saved someone from death; they became your servant for life. So if Our Lord Jesus is Our Saviour, why is He not fully followed? Luke 6: 46 - And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Mark 12: 28 to 34 - And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

Psalms 119: 10 - With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

And if we are serving Our Lord Jesus with our whole heart; we will not have any idols. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia includes in its article on idolatry that in the New Testament idolatry came to mean, not only the giving to any creature or human creation the honour or devotion which belonged to God alone, but the giving to any human desire a precedence over God's will.

In the last few years, some big idols have been smitten. Because many worshipped the Almighty dollar, it was brought down, like dagon. Because many worshipped their houses, their value was tremendously devalued.

Many of them were stolen from them. As many worship the automobile; it too has been brought down. Many lost their jobs directly or indirectly. And in the current economic climate, many have lost their vehicles.

There are more idols that need to be dealt with. One of the biggest is sports. I can understand why the world is mesmerized by it.

2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4 - But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

But why is the Church mesmerized by it? Galatians 3: 1 - O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Are there any signs to watch out for? When Christians worship and know more of sport figures than Our Lord Jesus Christ; When Christians spend more time in reading about or watching sports, than in personal and family devotions; When Christians know more of sport statistics than the Word of God; When Christians can't attend Worship Services, but can sit out in the freezing cold for many hours to watch a game, and paying big bucks to do it; When Christians overcome by their shortcomings in life, live out their fantasies in their children's athletics;

There is a problem. And yes, they are bewitched.

Our Lord has provided a way out for us; by casting the demons out, in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Power of His Precious Blood.

There is another area that needs to be rectified. I am referring to families, and how they are given greater preferences over God.

Is it really that big a problem? 1 Samuel 2: 27 to 29 - And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

I encourage you to finish reading this account, in order to get the whole story. But the main points are: Eli was the high priest; his sons were abusing their privileges with the sacrifices; they were sexually abusing the women who came to worship; and they refused to be corrected by their father. And God deals with the rebellious priests, as he did with the idolatrous ones. 2 Kings 23: 5 - And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

What exactly is the problem? How do we line up with God's priorities?

Matthew 10: 37 to 39 - He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

When it comes to our families, everyone wants to do the best we can.

Pastor Win, many years ago, mentioned how believers undermined their Christian witness, when they chose family events over church service.

This shows that God is not that important in their life.

And how many children's activities are allowed to push aside Christian service? We live in a fast-paced world; and there are many demands placed on our time and resources. We really do need the wisdom of Solomon, and God's Grace, and the leading of His Holy Spirit to make the right choices.

Women and children need to pray for their husbands and fathers for Divine Guidance in leading his family through the maze of modern society.

And besides caring for their families, fathers have to tend to their own selves. The men's Saturday morning prayer meeting is an excellent place, with other men to intercede for others, and get help ourselves too.

Every man has things that they don't need. But when they know that it is no good for them, and they refuse to deal with it; then it is an idol.

And if you want freedom, you are going to have to deal with it.

When Moses was confronted with the golden calf, did he embrace it?

Deuteronomy 9: 21 - And I took your sin, the calf which ye had made, and burnt it with fire, and stamped it, and ground it very small, even until it was as small as dust: and I cast the dust thereof into the brook that descended out of the mount.

It's easy to point to someone drinking or smoking, and saying; sinner, sinner. But what about obesity? The answer is not as simple as some (usually skinny) people would have it. Some people take medicines that make them gain weight. Some people have low metabolic rates. But yes; many do overeat, and don't exercise enough. Can it be that big a problem?

In a BBC story, Jan. 15, 2010; it's said that "Around one in four adults in England is classified as obese - an increase from 15% in 1993. "

That means that the number of overweight adults nearly doubled in less than twenty years. And the situation is worse for children. If this problem is not dealt with immediately, there will be major problems in the next generation. And for those who don't think that diabetes is that bad; try talking to someone who has to take insulin, or who has suffered from other related conditions. Is this mentioned in the Bible?

Luke 21: 34 - And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Galatians 5: 22 & 23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

What is temperance? 1466 egkrateia AV-temperance 4; 4

1) self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites)

Out of control; that describes most of society. But it shouldn't be said of us. We first need to realize that these are idols, and they are sin; and need to be confessed and repented of.

1 John 1: 9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Then we can get deliverance, and change our ungodly habits.

Another big idol these days is modern technology. I hope that everyone has turned off their cell-phones, their blackberries, their I-pods, their etc.

You know that it's getting bad, when schools have to restrict cell-phones because they are being used to text each other answers during exams.

How big a problem is this? A good guide to the importance of things is, how much time do we spend doing it?

Do even fanatical Christians spend one hour a day for the Lord Jesus?

Recent research has found that many people spend five hours every day watching TV and on the computer. What would happen, if they can't use them? There are many in Japan, who are in that situation right now.

Are there any other idolatrous practices that Our Lord does not want us to become involved with?

Deuteronomy 18: 9 to 14 - When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Well, I know that everyone is saying that they are not involved in any of that stuff. So, Praise the Lord! But because there are so many programs out there on exorcism, we need to be careful, lest we become tainted by them.

And any day now, the Church of Rome will be launching their own. It's supposed to contain their greatest exploits. I wonder if they are going to feature Luis Ponce. He made the headlines in World Weekly News;

April 10, 1990. Priest Burst into Flames during Exorcism.

ACatholic

priest exploded in flames when a demon-possessed schoolgirl attacked him with balls of white-hot energy that shot from the palms of her hands!

But there is one area that people have to watch out for. Pastor Win used to tell us often, not to get into fortune-telling sessions with the demons.

Even if their answers are checked and verified; you are probably consulting with a familiar spirit. And even though we are free in Christ, there are still certain things that are forbidden.

Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do. And if the person is in much worse condition after the deliverance; there is a problem. In the Old Testament, the leaders, the judges, the kings, and the prophets were required to get rid of the idols.

Judges 6: 25 to 28 - And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down. Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night. And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.

2 Chronicles 34: 1 to 7 - Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images. And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them. And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about. And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 44 is another reference to what Our Lord God thinks about His People involved in idolatry.

So can we take a hint; Our Lord God does not want; will not tolerate anything coming between Him and His People.

Now in the New Covenant, is there any difference? 2 Corinthians 6: 15 to 18 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, & walk in them; & I will be their God, & they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, & be ye separate, saith the Lord, & touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, & will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons & daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Colossians 3: 5 to 7 - Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

So now, who is responsible for cleaning out the idols? Pastors clean up the church, and fathers clean up their families.

When the early Church was being persecuted, they were given the opportunity to save their lives. They were asked three times to accept Caesar as their top god, and renounce Our Lord Jesus Christ. And those who would not; they got their martyr's crown shortly after.

There is another similar event soon coming. Revelation 13: 11 to 18 - And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

There is one thing that we in true deliverance have to remember. We

worship Our Lord Jesus Christ; not any person; not even the pope. Pastor Win Worley used to tell people regularly not to idolize him. He always gave the glory to Our Lord Jesus Christ, and never took any himself.

Hebrews 12: 1 to 3 - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

And it is too bad that more do not want to be set free, and rather choose the chains of idolatry. Joshua 24: 15 to 18 - And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed: And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

Being in spiritual warfare, we have seen just as many mighty miracles, as the modern Gadarene demoniacs are set free. & Our Lord Jesus is eagerly awaiting to do even more through us. Matthew 11: 28 to 30 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Romans 12: 1 to 3 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

So when God's people get involved with idolatry, God is insulted. And as He is a Jealous God, He will lovingly protect us, while working to restore us to a righteous godly relationship with Him. And as God judges the world, He only punishes His disobedient children. Deuteronomy 11: 1 to 7 - Therefore

thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway. And know ye this day: for I speak not with your children which have not known, and which have not seen the chastisement of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm, And his miracles, and his acts, which he did in the midst of Egypt unto Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and unto all his land; And what he did unto the army of Egypt, unto their horses, and to their chariots; how he made the water of the Red sea to overflow them as they pursued after you, and how the LORD hath destroyed them unto this day; And what he did unto you in the wilderness, until ye came into this place; And what he did unto Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their households, and their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel: But your eyes have seen all the great acts of the LORD which he did.

Hebrews 12: 4 to 11 - Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

And in order to get our attention, God has His ways.

2 Samuel 7: 14 & 15 - I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

God does not easily give up trying to restore His people. Leviticus 26 goes into great detail, of how far God will go to get His people back to Him.

Leviticus 26: 23 & 24 - And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me; Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

However there comes a time when God says enough is enough, and takes more drastic action. But we do not lose our salvation.

And even then, He does not give up on His people. Leviticus 26: 40 to 45 - If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land. The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her sabbaths, while she lieth desolate without them: and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised my judgments, and because their soul abhorred my statutes. And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God. But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.

And thankfully, Our Lord still pours out His Love and Mercy and Grace on us. 1 John 3: 1 to 3 - Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

And thankfully with the full gospel, we can purify ourselves, by the casting out of those evil spirits, in Jesus' Name, and by living the holy life.

Romans 13: 12 to 14 - The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

And so, if we love Our Lord; what do we not do; to provoke Him to anger?

1 Corinthians 10: 14 - Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

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