

Jealousy  
Fairview Texas Church of God  
January 14, 2012

Have you ever been jealous of anyone? How did you feel? Why were you jealous? Is it possible to be jealous and not even realize it?

What is the definition of the word?

Definition of JEALOUS from Merriam-Webster's dictionary:

- 1a: intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness: disposed to suspect rivalry or unfaithfulness
- 2: hostile toward a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage
- 3: vigilant in guarding a possession

What does the Bible say about being jealous? We may see some surprises.

**Exodus 20:**

- 1 And God spoke all these words, saying:
- 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 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,
  - Our God is a jealous God?
  - What can make Him jealous?
  - How do we put other gods before Him?

We most often think of jealousy in terms of love relationships. Our relationship with God is a love relationship, so that follows as true.

**Deuteronomy 6:**

- 5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

**Deuteronomy 23:**

- 5 "Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.

**1 John 4:**

- 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
  - Our God is the definition of true love
- 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

- 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
  - He loves us!
  - He wants us to love Him
- 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
  - And He wants us to love each other
- 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.
- 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
  - He has not only given us His Son, but also His Spirit!
- 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.
- 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
- 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.
  - In the Judgment, He will judge how much we lived as though we loved Him
- 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
- 19 We love Him because He first loved us.
- 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?
- 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

How do we show our love for Him? By NOT worshipping Him the way the rest of the world worship their gods.

***Exodus 34:***

- 1 And the LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke.
- 2 "So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain.
- 3 "And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain."
- 4 So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.
- 5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.
- 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

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- 7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."
- 8 So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.
- 9 Then he said, "If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance."
- 10 And He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.
- 11 "Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.
- 12 "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.
- 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),

In my summary of the Early Church, I ended by saying “the mainstream Christian churches have added to scripture and taken away from scripture. They have adapted pagan rituals and given them "Christian" meaning. They have made images to worship (statues of Mary etc.). The Catholic Church leaders are called "Father". They have installed a hierarchy with total authority. And they have changed the Ten Commandments by ignoring the Seventh Day Sabbath.”

In short, the mainstream Christians have taken on ways to worship our God that He did not put into the Bible. In fact, He told us to NOT do that.

**Deuteronomy 12:**

- 29 "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,
- 30 "take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'
- 31 "**You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods;** for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.
- 32 "**Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.**

Our relationship with God is a true love relationship. When we marry, we make a covenant with our spouse. That covenant means that we willingly promise that we will treat each other in certain ways. We don't do those things because we are married; we do them because we love each other.

It's not what you have to do to be a Christian; it's what you want to do because you are a Christian.

It's not what you have to do to be married; it's what you want to do because you are married.

Challenges arise in marriage. Those of us who are married know this. God knew this. Why else would the Bible warn us about the pitfalls? He predicted that we would be tempted, just as we are tempted in our physical marriage. Many songs have been written about jealousy. One that comes to mind is "It's hard to be with someone else when the right one comes along". That, to me, is a sad song. In today's world, we don't tend to work on keeping a marriage together. We give up much too easily. Hollywood gets a lot of publicity about marriages that don't work out. And that is because the people won't work to keep it going. Another song that comes to mind is "If true love doesn't last forever, what's forever for". Marriage is designed to be a model for our relationship with God – and to last forever – not just 72 days.

One of the first challenges in a marriage is when children come along. All of a sudden, it seems, the wife's attention turns to the new child and the husband, who has been the prime character in her life, is now feeling that he is in a secondary position.

This situation can be exacerbated when a 2<sup>nd</sup> child is born. At times, the first child, having been the primary receiver of attention from the mother and father, now may feel they are being slighted. It is a real challenge to the parents that many handle much better than others. It is work to keep these situations in perspective and to remember why the couple married in the first place; and to remember why they chose to have children in the first place.

Our jobs can also, at times, be the source of jealousy. We may put a job ahead of our family, our spouse and children. They then feel slighted. Men have been known to spend excessive time at work because they feel more comfortable there than at home. The job becomes a rival to the family. That hostility is jealousy. Men rationalize their work by saying they are only trying to provide a good living for their family. They think this is their way of showing their love. They have adopted a way of the world as a way to worship their family instead of God's way.

There are many other ways that humans put 'gods' before our God. Illegal immigrants are one example. Why do they break the law by coming to the USA illegally? Because they want what we have, but they don't want to follow the law to get it. Isn't that what mainstream religions do? They want what God promises, but they don't want to follow His law in order to get it.

### **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.

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- We have a major obesity problem literally in the USA today!
- 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.
  - What could be those 'new gods'?
    - How about:
      - Hollywood idols
      - Sports idols
      - New cars
      - Large homes
      - Advertised products that promise a better life, with improved skin, fewer facial wrinkles, prettier hair ad infinitum
    - These are new gods that our forefathers did not know
- 18 Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.
  - God created us
  - He brought us into a marriage with Him
  - We have committed adultery
  - We have committed covetousness
- 19 "And when the LORD saw it, He spurned them, Because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters.
- 20 And He said: 'I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, For they are a perverse generation, Children in whom is no faith.
- 21 They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.
  - It is our actions that have provoked God to jealousy

Jealousy can be provoked by anything or anyone that comes between two persons in any love relationship. Keep yourself in tune with that thought so that you will recognize it when it happens. Many times, we are not aware. But, if we keep alert, we can recognize when we have our priorities wrong; when we have placed one person or thing above another and provoked jealousy. When we break a covenant on earth or with God, we provoke Him to jealousy.

I'm sure you have heard the saying with its various versions: 'I think he/she loves that car, computer, friend, television etal. More than he/she loves me'. Don't let anything or anyone come between you and the person you love. Close friends can coexist with close family members. But they should never come between one another.

Don't let anything or anyone come between you and God. You will provoke Him to jealousy. And He is a jealous God!