

Jealousy, Proper and Improper.

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How does jealousy affect your life?

We can remember back to our childhood, when a toy or a bag of sweets was given to your brother or friend and you didn't get any!

How did you feel?

It is this type of jealousy in The World today that is responsible for many of things that occur now. Violence in marriage - a survey in 1976 gave a figure of 35% of all marriages contained wife battery. Separation, disagreements and finally divorce are results of possible jealousy. When the couples break up, disadvantaged children are left in the breach. The divorced parents may often then flirt with other adults often leading to illegitimate children. We have examples of whole council estates full of single mothers, having no fathers with them.

Sometimes there is intense jealousy between the father and mother when a new baby comes onto the scene. It is so sad when initial love for each other turns into this bitter jealousy.

In politics, 55 million people died in The Second World War just because the politicians wanted someone else's land. In business there is the cutthroat aggression resulting from the desires to get on and be successful. These desires stem from jealousy of someone's position above you. You want their rewards. Often people will 'stab someone in the back' just to get them out of your way! Perhaps one company will try and push another down just for their market share - based upon envy and jealousy, to be in a stronger and more secure position.

This form of jealousy is not fruit from the Spirit, but is very worldly.

Gal. 5v19-21 Now the works of the flesh (= *worldly attractions*) are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct, Idolatry, witchcraft, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissention, heresies, envy, murderers, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (= *to become one of the 144000 Sons of God*).

All these fruits are linked in with jealousy.

Are we involved with them?

Lets look at three aspects:-

1. What is jealousy?
2. How is it bad?
3. How should Christians avoid it?

1. What is jealousy?

Definition of Jealousy is:-

The intolerance of unfaithfulness or rivalry;
(which could be good for Godly living).

But also there are other fruits of:-

Envy and suspicion.
(these are the negative, bad aspects).

James 3v14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. The bad side is shown here. It is the worldly fleshly side running from Satan's dominion of this planet.

We should serve God who has a particular title.

Ex. 34v14 For you shall worship no other god; For Yahweh, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

If Christians serve a Jealous God then we must reflect His name! Likewise Yahweh God is intensely jealous for His people and will protect his people for His name.

Zech. 8v2 Thus says the Lord of Hosts; I was jealous for Zion (*extended to include The Israelites – see “Zion” in Glossary*) with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.

Clearly God is jealous for His people (now the True Christians), if we are jealous for Him and look after His interests in this world - ie to fulfil His will (being His Desire of us) in our lives.

1Ki 19v10-14 And Elijah said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your alters, and slain your prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. God passed by in a great wind, then an earthquake, then a fire; however He was in none of them, but in the small voice that spoke next Elijah repeated ... I have been very jealous for your name

Elijah was all alone and felt that his time on this earth had come to an end!

We may feel like this!

However God has a purpose for us, just as He had for Elijah. If we fervently search for Yahweh God, then no one, not even the person next to us will be able to pull us away from Yahweh. We will always fight Satan's snares and strengthen ourselves accordingly in our resolve! This is the refining in the fire that The Bible often talks about.

Psalm 69v9 For the zeal of your house (= *Family of God*) has eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached you have fallen upon me.

There are many parts in this psalm that point to Jesus Christ. No one could surpass the zeal that Jesus had for his Father's house. He had complete devotion and jealousy for his Father. Jesus always did everything in his Father's Name. Jesus could have let it go to his head, but this never happened. However Satan behaved differently, power went to his head in the Garden of Eden and ever since then. Clearly, then, we must not let any uncleanness permeate through us or The True Congregation of God.

Heb. 12v15 Carefully watch, because any person may fail the grace of God, because any root of bitterness may spring up within you and so many be defiled.

This is a good simile. You cannot see roots - they are under the ground, and they spread while they grow out of sight and suddenly, shoot up to engulf you or the congregation. You must get rid of them before they do serious damage.

2Cor. 11v2-3 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Godly means holy, hence Jesus could present a congregation to Yahweh God in a perfected state ready as the 'Bride of Christ'. We must analyse what we do everyday to ensure that it is holy. We must look for guidance from the close study of the Bible and True Christian leaders who have proved themselves in their actions.

2. How is Jealousy bad?

These would be the unholy forms of improper Jealousy.

The wrong forms of jealousy spawn fruits synonymous with envy and suspicion, working unscrupulously, blames others for things that occur. Does the person blow a molehill up into a mountain? Magnify things that could be dealt with easily in a small way. Cause friction and mistrust.

1Sam. 18v7-9 And the women answered as they played, and said: Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very angry, and these sayings displeased him; and he said: They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands; and he will want my kingdom next! And Saul was continually looking suspiciously at David from that day on.

Saul had everything, but because of one thing was enlarged and then became twisted within his mind - he was thinking on a fleshly plane. We can remember back to the beginning where a certain Very High Angel called Satan who started the rebellion against Yahweh God. He thought that he was equal to God, and wanted the worship that should have been directed to Yahweh by the human race. Satan covered the kingship with shame; he does not want to be equal but better! We should not be thinking like that. Jesus set the correct example - he did not want to be better, but he washed the feet of the disciples.

Another form of Jealousy:

Gen. 4v3,6-7 And in the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground. The Lord said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? If you don't do well then sin lies at the door. Its desire shall be for you, but you must master it.

God hit Cain's problem on the head. Jealousy sits there like this root mentioned earlier. Like a root it grows and the festering gets larger and larger until it bursts out suddenly in a fit of anger. This shows that from the beginning of human time, the actions of Cain start portraying the fruits of his master Satan!

Gen. 37v3-35 Joseph and his coat of many colours gave forth jealousy in his brothers. This jealousy led to a point where they were going to actually kill their younger brother Joseph.

What are the fruits of this form of Jealousy?

They lied to their father about their brother.

They covered the coat in blood.

They pretended he had been killed.

This was one of their biggest lies and they brought this shame to their father later. Imagine yourself in front of your father, standing there pretending that his favoured son had died. Think of the pain that he would have gone through!

Numb. 12v1-15 Very quickly: Miriam and Aaron Spoke out against Moses and said that he took the wrong wife. God was listening and pulled all three parties together. God said: How dare you talk about my (meek) servant (= *Moses The Leader*) like that! God then stuck Miriam with leprosy.

However, Look at the twist side!

Moses did not have this earthly form of jealousy, consequently Moses begged God to remove this curse from Miriam. Moses knew that God loved people (if their heart condition is correct) and was able to show people how Moses' form of jealousy was the correct form and God backed this up answering Moses' pleas for clemency.

Luke 9v46 Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be the greatest.

After everything that had been said earlier in the passage, the disciples asked this question!

This seems so difficult to believe, but we see this around us now with many of the religious representatives. However Jesus showed by coming here on earth in a human frame, he was able to put himself in a lesser position (he did not take on earthly kingship) and hence was able to help us. This is like us: If we put ourselves into a lower position we are then able to help someone; you cannot if you are greater - you are above them and cannot put yourself in their position.

Prov. 14v30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh, but jealousy the rottenness of the bones. Jealousy brings on sleeplessness, vomiting, heart attacks, etc., strife brings all this on.

1Cor. 13v4 Love is long suffering, it is kind, love is not jealous (or envious), love is not boastful or puffed up. Love will bring on co-operation between fellow human beings. The women did not mean any malice against Saul; so let's use this as an example, in so as much that we too do not exalt someone in the congregation (or elsewhere) too much, or say how wonderful one family is over someone's else's. If we do then we may segregate people and cause friction within fellow members. Satan is so good at sending out these arrows at us, don't let them stick in ourselves; we must try and pull them out before they hold.

3. How should we view ourselves?

If you have self-glory, or receive and accept glory; then it becomes very easy to be ignorant to the needs of others. We must not become egotistical.

Gal. 5v26 Let us not seek or desire vain glory, provoking one another, envying or being jealous of one another.

Acts 10v28 And he said to them, You know that it is unlawful for a Jewish man to keep company, or marry one of another nation, but God has shown to me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Here we see that the whole congregation belongs to God and it is up to God to choose who is clean or unclean, and not to man.

Remember:-

He who thinks he is standing safely; beware, because you have reached a point where you could easily fall!

Matt. 6v33 But you must seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first, and all these things shall be added to you.

Are we jealous for a world of violence and crime?
Do we walk freely with it?

Or do we wish to live in a righteous world initiated by Jesus Christ's example where there is love and kindness, no racial problems, but intentional reconciliation.

Heb. 12v15 As quoted above.

We must never be like that root, we must not manipulate others for our self-indulgence, or complain about the faults in others, they have problems just like ourselves; we should not sneer at others. Satan sneers at God, and he is pleased if anyone fails or falls away from God's Standard for each one of us. We should learn to laugh and cry with others, share their problems so that we may help them.

We must do everything exclusively for Yahweh God. To learn what we should do comes directly from the study of the scriptures. By doing this we gain the necessary information on how to behave according God's will.

The love and unselfishness will come from the spirit of God. We must gain this information so that we are able to protect our mind from the snares of Satan.

If we follow this advice then we will not be taught by an enemy of God but by a very close Friend.