

The Character and Attributes of God
Lesson 3 – A Jealous God

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Introduction: We were made to have fellowship with God.

A. Without this relationship we are empty and without real purpose.

(Ecc 3:11; Acts 17:26-28)

1. It was the introduction of sin that separated man from God.
2. Man must now learn of God and how to have a relationship with Him.

B. The essence of knowing God should bring a powerful change in our hearts.

1. When we see the power, wisdom and holiness of God we should despise ourselves. **(Psa 100:3; Mt 5:3)**
2. Our own sin the presence of God's holiness must break us. **(Mt 5:4)**
3. God wants our whole heart!

I. What does the jealousy of God mean?

A. **Jealous** - ζηλόω - (1) as commendably striving for something *desire, show zeal (for), set one's heart on* (1C 12.31); (2) of a strong personal concern for someone *be zealous or jealous (over)* (2C 11.2); (3) of an attitude of misplaced zeal *be zealous for, eagerly seek, try to win over* (GA 4.17); (4) in a bad sense of hostile emotion based on resentment (*be moved with*) *envy, be filled with jealousy, be jealous of* (AC 17.5) - Freiberg Lexicon

1. Someone has described it as the zealous love of God.
2. "The root idea in the Old Testament word jealous is to become intensely red. It seems to refer to the changing color of the face or the rising heat of the emotions which are associated with intense zeal or fervor over something dear to us. In fact, both the Old and New Testament words for jealousy are also translated "zeal." Being jealous and being zealous are essentially the same thing in the Bible. God is zealous—eager about protecting what is precious to Him."
3. Satan can direct men into another kind of jealousy that can destroy the mind and the soul. **(Gal 5:20, 2 Cor 12:20)**

B. God is jealous because we are a special treasure to Him. **(Ex 19:4-6)**

1. Consider God's relationship to Israel. **(Ps 135:4; Hosea 2:18-19)**
2. God's jealousy is an intolerance of rivalry or unfaithfulness. This would be like the jealousy that a spouse would have.
3. The same is true of His people in the New Testament. **(2 Cor 11:2)**
4. Along with being God's people involves the covenant which defines the relationship. This covenant is a blessing! **(Deut 4:23-24; Psa 78:55-61)**

Questions

1. What need has God placed within every man? How is that need met?
2. How do we know that we are very special to God?
3. What is another word that describes the jealousy of God? Explain how this is so.
4. How is our relationship to God like the marriage relationship? What does this mean?
5. Why is a covenant essential to having a relationship with God?

II. What makes God jealous?

- A. God is intolerant of rival gods (**Ex. 20:5; 34:13-14; Deut. 4:23-24; 5:9**)
1. God will respond to unfaithfulness in wrath. God wants us to know this upfront!
 2. What do we learn from the nation of Israel? (**1 Kgs 14:22; Deut 32:16, 21**)
 3. This is why God pleads with us to give Him our whole heart, mind and soul. He dearly wants to bless us. We cannot take this relationship lightly.
 4. Moses warned the people that they would not survive the presence of God without understanding His nature. The people rejoiced in being given a covenant. (**Joshua 24:19-25**)
 5. God's love for us is so strong that He is jealous for *our devotion and love*. How would you feel if you had a spouse that you deeply love and have provided and then found out that your spouse was not faithful to you?
- B. God is jealous over *his people* and will bring vengeance on outsiders who *harm them*.
1. God will avenge the enemies of God's people will blessing His people! (**Ezek. 36:6-9; 39:25-26; Zech 1:14-15**)
 2. Our God is aware of our suffering and when others persecute us.
 3. He wants us to trust Him to take vengeance rather than we doing it ourselves. (**Rom 12:19**)
- B. God is jealous over his people and will bring vengeance on *insiders* who harm them.
1. Phineas killed many who by their actions were openly influencing God's people. (**Num 25:3-8; 11-12**)
 2. Consider the stand of Elijah contrasted to the "open minded" cowardice of the people he sought to persuade. (**1 Kgs 18:21; 19:10, 14**)
- C. The question of fellowship is a crucial subject for God's people. Are we jealous for God's people and their spiritual condition? (**2 Cor 11:2-4, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:20-22**)
1. Fellowship is the acid test for what we are really putting first. Too many want the name Christian but have full fellowship with the world. (**James 4:4-6**)
 2. Too many Christians have joined the world in criticizing "negative preaching."
 3. What if we get it wrong?
- D. God's jealousy for us causes Him to give us the very best! (**James 4:5**)
1. At what price did He make us His people? (**1 Pt 1:18-19**)
 2. Consider all that God has given us and will give us! (**1 Cor 2:9**)

Questions

1. What is the first commandment given on Mt Sinai? What does God want from us?
2. How can we better understand the wrath of God? Why does God want us to know of His certain wrath?
3. Why will God avenge His people? What should our response be to this truth?
4. What motivated both Elijah and Phineas? How do we show this kind of heart today?
5. What truth is at the heart of "fellowship?" Why do some people want to ignore what God has said on this subject?
6. Why do we know that God will give us His very best gifts and provisions?