

JEALOUSY

I. Some Biblical usages of the word "jealousy"

- A. Hebrew words *qana, qanna, qina* - meaning "zealous" or "jealous"
Gen. 37:11 - "his brothers were jealous of him" (Joseph)
Exod. 20:5 - "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God"
Numb. 5:14,30 - "jealous of his wife"
Deut 32:16,21 - "they made Him jealous with strange gods"
Zech. 8:2 - "I am exceedingly jealous for Zion"
- B. Greek words *zelos, zeloo, zelotes* - meaning "zealous" or "jealous"
I Cor. 3:3 - "there is strife and jealousy among you"
I Cor. 10:22 - "do we provoke the Lord to jealousy?"
I Cor. 13:4 - "love is not jealous"
II Cor. 11:2 - "I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy"
James 3:14,16 - "jealousy and selfish ambition exist"

II. Defining "jealousy"

- A. English word "jealousy" is etymologically derived from Greek *zelos*
- B. Webster's Dictionary
 1. "apprehensive of loss of exclusive devotion"
 2. "intolerance of rivalry or unfaithfulness"
 3. "hostile toward one believed to enjoy an advantage"
 4. "vigilant to guard a possession"
- C. Defining features from original Biblical words
 1. Emotional expression toward person, idea or cause
 2. Passionate commitment
- D. A working definition: "Jealousy is a fervent desire to have things transpire as one desires."

III. Applying the definition to the Biblical usages

- A. The jealousy of God
 1. God has a fervent desire that things should transpire as He desires, which is always in accord with His character.
cf. Exod 20:5; Deut 4:24; 5:9; 6:15; Josh 24:19
 2. God is zealous/jealous that His people should not sin.
cf. Deut. 29:20; 32:16,21; Ps. 78:58; 79:5; Ezek. 16:38; I Cor. 10:22
 3. God is zealous/jealous that His people should live in accord with His character. cf. Ezek. 39:25; Zech 8:2
- B. The jealousy of man
 1. Man can have a fervent desire that things should transpire as God desires.
I Kings 19:10 - "I have been zealous for the Lord"
Jn. 2:17 - "Zeal for Thy house will consume Me"
II Cor. 11:2 - "I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy"
 2. Man can have a fervent desire that things should transpire as he ignorantly or selfishly desires.
 - a. Jealousy is linked with
 - (1) selfish ambition - James 3:14,16
 - (2) strife, conflict - Rom. 13:13; I Cor. 3:3; II Cor. 12:20

- (3) deeds of the flesh - Gal. 5:20
- (4) anger, wrath, rage - Prov. 6:34; 27:4
- b. Jealousy is a dissatisfaction and unacceptance of God's providential arrangement of one's life.
- c. Jealousy exhibits diabolic character - James 3:15
- d. Jealousy is destructive - Job 5:2; Prov. 6:34; 27:4
- e. Jealousy is often based on an inadequate sense of identity (cf. I Cor. 15:10), and fuels depression
- f. Biblical examples of selfish jealousy
 - (1) brothers of Joseph - Gen. 37:11,19; Acts 7:9
 - (2) Korah - Ps. 106:16,18; Numb. 16:3
 - (3) Jewish leaders - Acts 5:17; 17:5
 - (4) Zealots - Lk. 6:15; Acts 1:13

IV. Examples of selfish jealousy

- A. jealous of another's possessions, wealth, assets - (greed, coveting)
- B. jealous of another's position, placement, job, advancement
- C. jealous of another's authority, power, leadership
- D. jealous of another's recognition, praise, prestige
- E. jealous of another's abilities, talents, skills
- F. jealous of another's accomplishments, achievements, success
- G. jealous of another's intelligence, logic, knowledge
- H. jealous of another's personality, social standing
- I. jealous of another's relationships, communication, intimacy, marriage
- J. jealous of another's loyalties, devotion, attachments
- K. jealous of another's age, youth, maturity, experience
- L. jealous of another's looks, appearance, beauty, health
- M. jealous of another's clothes, style, sophistication
- N. jealous of another's opportunities, privileges, advantages, good fortune

V. The character of God in reference to jealousy or jealousy

- A. In our zeal we must recognize
 - 1. the character of God and His intents
 - a. zeal according to knowledge - cf. Rom. 10:2; Gal. 1:14; Phil. 3:6
 - b. godly jealousy - cf. II Cor. 11:2
 - 2. that only God's grace can bring about what He desires.
- B. In place of selfish jealousy we must allow the character of God to be expressed in
 - 1. Faith - our receptivity of His active expression of His character
 - 2. Thanksgiving, gratitude - recognizing the "good grace" of God in His providential arrangement of our life
 - 3. Contentment, satisfaction, acceptance, appreciation - cf. Phil. 4:11
 - 4. Love - "seeks highest good of other, without thinking what I get out of it" - I Cor. 13:4 - "love is not jealous"
 - 5. Perseverance - "abide under" even unfairness, inequity
 - 6. Joy, peace, patience