

Jealous God

Introduction / Tension:

Wesleyans: God is love; Christians = God loves us; tell people God loves you; do we really grasp / understand the degree to which God loves us? Do we understand the passion that burns in God's belly for His people; God has many names in the Bible - 'The Most High God', The Everlasting God; Creator; Yahweh (the Lord Will Provide); Healer (Rapha), Rock, etc., but there's one name above other names that captures God fervor for you - Jealous; Exodus 34:14 states "the Lord, whose Name Is Jealous, is a jealous God"

Background:

- God heard groaning of Israel in Egypt when in slavery
- Moses sent to deliver / Passover / the 'Exodus' / parting of Red Sea
- Complaining in desert - manna, quail, water,
- Israel at Mt. Sinai - 10 Commandments / law
- Golden Calf (Exodus 32)
- 10 Commandments / stone tablets "Take 2"

EXODUS 34: 10-16

- I. How can God be jealous?
 - a. Think of jealousy as a negative character trait
 - i. Jealous Husband
 - ii. Jealous of something b/c we can't have it
 - b. Dictionary defines jealous
 1. Intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness
 2. Hostile toward rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage
 3. Vigilant in guarding a possession.

How can God be this intolerant, hostile

But God is Jealous, he says it himself

God can't be anything negative

Question changes, How Is God Jealous?

Difference in jealousy

Two Types

1. Negative correlation to jealousy
2. Positive = Hebrew=qana (kaw-naw')

Can be translated zeal

God is zealous; Prevenient Grace = wooing us, chasing, pursuing

Meaning=Exclusive devotion

Monica and Ever Picture

Jealous of vs. Jealous for

How can God be jealous

Take a closer look at the dictionary definitions

Intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness

Vigilant in guarding a possession

God is not jealous of "anything", people, angels, gods, etc.

- The story of the OT is about how God is pursuing his "chosen" nation of Israel
- He is jealous for the nation of Israel
- He is jealous for you and your devotion
- You are God's desire
- Helps make sense (kind of) of how God could send His Son to the Cross for us

What does God being jealous mean for us

If God is jealous for me, then I should be jealous for him

That is all he wants=relationship

Desire for Him as he desires for us

The whole story of the OT=wanted Israel to desire him and be devoted to Him as much as he was to them;
that's God's desire for us

How can we be jealous for God?

1. Remove sin from our lives so we can actually draw near to God

V's. 13 Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles.

- "The first step in any spiritual awakening is demolition. We cannot make headway in seeking God without first tearing down the accumulated junk in our souls. We have to start seeing the sinful debris we hadn't noticed before. . ." -Jim Cymbala Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire

2. Devote ourselves to 'greater things'

15 "Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. 16 And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.

- We devote ourselves to lesser things; we prostitute ourselves, to lesser things
 - Hobbies, sports, food, "good things" or at least not bad things
 - John Bever's story from Killing Kryptonite
- We settle for lesser things or status quo in our relationship with God...

God is pursuing us, chasing after us, all he wants is us to turn around and pursue him; there is so much more that we can experience with God if we passionately pursue and desire Him as much as He passionately pursues and desires us, **FULL SEND**

3. Be zealous for God

King David passionately pursued and desired God; He was a man after the heart of the Father; He gives us a glimpse into what a heart longing for God looks like

Psalm 63:1-8

Now what: Admonish us all to Passionately Pursue the Lord - 'hunger and thirst for Him' - ultimately, that's the work of the Holy Spirit in us and changing the posture of the heart and the Spirit give us an appetite for the things of God, and as we yearn and desire the Lord through the Spirit, we're drawn to prayer prayer, soaking in His presence, reading the Word, Christian fellowship and worship;

Or sometimes, it's in doing those things, we experience an increase in our craving and zeal for the Lord...

God is jealous for you; are you jealous for Him?

Closing