

# Jealousy

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## WHY IS OUR JEALOUSY SO DANGEROUS?

### PROVERBS 14:30

Jealousy brings decay to our lives because it causes us to focus on anger and bitterness.

<sup>30</sup>A relaxed attitude lengthens life; jealousy rots it away.

### PROVERBS 27:4; GENESIS 13:7

Jealousy tears families and friends apart. Jealousy drove Lot's herdsmen to fight with his uncle Abram's herdsmen.

<sup>4</sup>Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but who can survive the destructiveness of jealousy?

<sup>7</sup>So an argument broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS "A JEALOUS GOD"?

### EXODUS 34:14; DEUTERONOMY 5:9; DEUTERONOMY 32:21; ZECHARIAH 1:14

When people give their honor, praise, and love to other things, God is jealous that the honor due him has been squandered elsewhere. Because God deserves all our honor, praise, and love, this is an honest recognition of what he deserves.

<sup>14</sup>You must worship no other gods, but only the LORD, for he is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you.

<sup>9</sup>You must never worship or bow down to them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not share your affection with any other god! I do not leave unpunished the sins of those who hate me, but I punish the children for the sins of their parents to the third and fourth generations.

<sup>21</sup> They have roused my jealousy by worshiping non-gods;  
they have provoked my fury with useless idols.  
Now I will rouse their jealousy by blessing other nations; I will provoke their fury by blessing the foolish Gentiles.

<sup>14</sup>Then the angel said to me, "Shout this message for all to hear: 'this is what the LORD Almighty says: My love for Jerusalem and Mount Zion is passionate and strong.

## WHERE DOES JEALOUSY TAKE US? WHAT CAN HAPPEN NEXT?

### PROVERBS 12:12

Thieves steal from others in response to their jealousy and lust for someone else's money. Generous people, on the other hand, love to give and that becomes their driving force in life.

<sup>12</sup>Thieves are jealous of each other's loot, while the godly bear their own fruit.

### GENESIS 4:4-8; GALATIANS 5:22-26

When we seek the character traits that come from the Holy Spirit, we are spared from petty human jealousy and the hard feelings that come from the competition for honor and popularity.

<sup>4</sup>while Abel brought several choice lambs from the best of his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but he did not accept Cain and his offering. This made Cain very angry and dejected.

<sup>6</sup>“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked him. “Why do you look so dejected? <sup>7</sup>You will be accepted if you respond in the right way. But if you refuse to respond correctly, then watch out! Sin is waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must subdue it.”

<sup>8</sup>Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, “Let’s go out into the fields.”<sup>9</sup> And while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.

<sup>22</sup>But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.

<sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. <sup>25</sup>If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, or irritate one another, or be jealous of one another.

### *Promise from God: Mark 11:24-25*

<sup>24</sup>Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it. <sup>25</sup>But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”<sup>26</sup>