

IS JEALOUSY A SIN?

In our society, jealousy is almost universally perceived as a negative and even infantile emotion. The word often evokes visions of a jealous husband who questions his wife's every move, pores over her credit card statements and phone bills and even spies on her. It also provokes images of one who is jealous of another who has more wealth and money than he does.

The Bible itself is not lacking in its condemnation of jealousy. To the Corinthians, Paul included jealousy with a host of other sins including "*outbursts of wrath*", "*selfish ambitions*", and "*backbitings*" (2 Cor. 12.20). To the Galatians Paul mentioned jealousy among the works of the flesh, along with such things as murder and adultery (Gal. 5.19,20).

If jealousy is so often condemned both by the world as well as the inspired word of God, how do we explain the fact that God is jealous (Ex. 20.5; Nah 1.2; 1 Cor. 10.22)? The word "jealousy" is derived from the Greek word "zelos" from which we get our English word "zealous." To be zealous is to be passionate. It is to express strong desire and, by itself, is not sinful. Like so many things, it is good or evil depending on the object on which it is directed. We are to be "*zealous for good works*" (Titus 2.14). And we are told that "*it is good to be zealous in a good thing always*" (Gal. 4.18).

Even Paul expressed his concern for the fidelity of the Corinthian church when he wrote, "*For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy*" (2 Cor. 11.2). Paul was not envious of the Corinthians. He was passionate and zealous (very desirous) for their faithfulness to God. What husband or wife would not be jealous toward an unfaithful spouse? In fact, a lack of passion for his a spouse's fidelity would be considered unnatural and even immoral (Prov. 6.34). When Paul preached the gospel to the Gentiles, it was his intention to "*provoke to jealousy those who are of my flesh*" (Rom. 11.14). Paul was not trying to make the Jews envious. He was trying to stir up within them a strong desire and passion to come to God (Rom. 10.1).

So ask yourself if your jealousy is a sinful jealousy. CLP

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

September 3, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

TRAINING THE CONSCIENCE

The conscience is that feeling within us that provokes a sense of guilt when we have done that which we believe is wrong. We might say that a certain deed "bothered our conscience."

It is important to note that the conscience, by itself, is not adequate to tell the difference between right and wrong. In fact, there are times when one might break the laws of God, but because he did not perceive it as sin, his conscience would not be bothered. Although Paul tried to destroy the church, he confessed that "*I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day*" (Acts 23.1). Paul warned about those whose conscience was "*seared with a hot iron*" (1 Tim. 4.2). They were not bothered by what they did.

In contrast, the conscience may be bothered by something that is not against the laws of God. Under the Old Law, the Jews were forbidden to eat meat sacrificed to idols. However, under the law of Christ, no such restriction was in place. Due to their conscience being trained that eating certain meats was sinful, it bothered their conscience to do so. (1 Cor. 8.7,8).

How do we train our conscience? We train it by the word of God (Rom. 9.1). When we are influenced by the Holy Spirit (the word of God), the scriptures confirm our guilt or our innocence. CLP

WE WISH TO SEE JESUS

JOHN 1:29

INTRODUCTION:

1. **JOHN 12.20,21:** “*Sir, we wish to see Jesus*”. Should not that be our desire as well?
2. Writing to a Gentile audience, John translates a Greek work three different times. (vs. 38,41,42).
2. In this text we find three individuals who have something insightful to say about Jesus.

I. THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN

- A. **JOHN 1.29:** “*Behold the Lamb of God...*”
 1. The concept of a sacrificial lamb is found through the Old Testament. (Ex. 12.3-5)
 2. Jesus gave Himself like “*a lamb without blemish and without spot.*” (1 Pet. 1.18,19)
- B. **JOHN 1.34:** “*...this is the Son of God.*”
 1. John did not know Jesus, but when He John baptized Him, he know who He was. (John 1.32-34)
 2. **JOHN 9.35-37:** “*Do you believe in the Son of God?*”

II. THE TESTIMONY OF ANDREW

- A. **JOHN 1.37,38:** “*Rabbi (which is translated Teacher)*”
 1. Jesus is known to be a great teacher. (John 11.28)
 2. Jesus impressed His audience by the manner of His Teachings. (John 7.46)
- B. **JOHN 1.41:** “*We have found the Messiah*”
 1. The Messiah was that which was prophesied in the Old Testament. They were anticipating Him. (Dan. 9.24,25)
 2. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (John 6.68,69)

III. THE TESTIMONY OF PHILIP

- A. **JOHN 1.45:** “*We have found Him of whom Moses in the law...wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*”
 1. Moses wrote about Christ. (Deut. 18.15,16)
 2. Christ would be like Moses. (Gal. 6.2; 1 Tim. 2.5)
- B. **JOHN 1.45:** “*We have found Him of whom...the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth...*” (Luke 24.27,44)

CONCLUSION: Nathaniel came to see Jesus. (John 1.46-49)

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

It is the desire and intention of every Christian to “*understand what the will of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5.17). Before we can submit our lives to the will of God, we need to first understand God’s will for our lives. What kind of life does God want me to live? What decisions am I expected to make? What am I to make a priority in my life? Consider some passages that specify the will of God.

To the Thessalonians Paul wrote, “*In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*” (1 Thess. 5.18). We sing a song, “Count Your Blessings.” When I consider how much God has blessed my life, I wonder if it is even possible to “name them one by one.” The Psalmist wrote, “*The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want*” (Ps. 23.1). Later in that same Psalm, he wrote, “*My cup runs over.*” We are so blessed that we not only have what we need, but we have an abundance. It is God’s will that we do not take it for granted, but “*in everything give thanks.*”

Earlier in that same epistle, Paul revealed another expectation of God. “*For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality*” (1 Thess. 4.3). The word “sanctification” means to be pure, separated from sin and ungodliness. Jesus submitted to the will of His Father and offered Himself on the cross for our sins. By Jesus complying to the will of God, we have the blood of Jesus available to us to make us pure. (Heb. 10.9,10). As one who is sanctified by the blood of Jesus, I submit to the will of God when I strive to resist temptation and “*keep oneself unspotted from the world*” (James 1.27).

Peter also specifies the will of God for us. In 1 Peter 2.13,14 we are told to “*submit to governing authorities*”. He continues in verse 15, “*For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.*” It is the will of God to submit to governing authorities. It is described as something that is good. Men and women have fought hard and have sacrificed their very lives so that we can have the freedoms that we now enjoy. However, these freedoms do not exempt us from abiding by the law. We can have our differing political views, but we all must respect and submit to those in civil authority.

As Christians, you and I are to be “*bondservants of Christ doing the will of God from the heart*” (Eph. 6.6). This can only be done if we know the will of God. The only way to know His will is through our careful study of the Bible.

CLP