

# DOCTRINE OF ENVY AND JEALOUSY

- I. Definition, description and vocabulary.
  - A. While both envy and jealousy are used interchangeably in the English language as if synonymous (as does the NAS), they have distinct difference in nuance.
  - B. Envy occurs when we lack a desired attribute enjoyed by another.
  - C. Jealousy occurs when something we already possess is threatened by another person.
  - D. Both actions of envy and jealousy are emotions reactive/responsive with envy reacting to lacking something and jealousy reacting to the threat of losing something.
  - E. Both emotions may have a feeling of discontent or ill-will toward another.
  - F. Envy and jealousy may be simultaneously expressed as you may envy what another has and be jealous as their acquisition was at the expense of your loss.
  - G. When envy and jealousy involve people, envy is a two-person situation; jealousy is a three-person situation.
  - H. The reactions are predominately sinful but can be righteous. Cp.Exo.20:4,5
  - I. Primary Hebrew vocabulary:
    - 1. נָאֵץ – qanah; verb; from primary root meaning to get, acquire; cognate of נָאֵץ – to acquire; this verb most accurately means envy though translated as jealous, envy, made jealous, zeal; used 40x.
    - 2. תְּנִיחָה – qine’ah; noun; from unused word meaning ardor, zeal, jealousy; it would be most accurately translated jealousy; translated anger, jealousy (23x), passion, rivalry, zeal (14x).
  - J. Primary Greek vocabulary:
    - 1. φθόνος – phthonos; noun; translated envy/ing (8x); jealousy (1x).
    - 2. ζηλόω – zeloo; verb from *zelos* meaning zeal; translated jealous (4x), desire earnestly, seek eagerly.
- II. Jealousy is a personal sin, a product of the STA. 1Cor.3:3; 2Cor.12:20; Gal.5:20
- III. Jealousy is one of the strongest mental attitude sins. Pro.27:4
- IV. Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. Jam.3:13-16
- V. Jealousy may lead to revenge tactics. Pro.6:32-35
- VI. Jealousy is a powerful agent in the destruction of category 2 love (RM/RW) that the Mosaic Law prescribed a special test for the wife of a jealous husband. Num.5:11-31
- VII. Reversionism manifests itself in jealousy/envy. Rom.1:29 cp.Gen.30:1; 37:11
- VIII. Jealousy was a factor in the split of the Jewish nation. Isa.11:13
- IX. Envy motivated the religious leaders of Israel to murder their Messiah. Mat.27:18
- X. False doctrine produces jealousy/envy. 1Tim.6:3,4

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- XI.** Envy causes believers to reject the authority of their right shepherd. Num.16:1-3 cp.Psa.106:16
- XII.** Jealousy motivated the Jews' rejection of the apostles. Act.5:17; 13:45; 17:5
- XIII.** Believers are commanded not to envy reversionists. Pro.3:31; 23:17
- XIV.** We are commanded not to imitate their behavior. Rom.13:13
- XV.** Some specific instances of jealousy/envy that led to further sin:
  - A.** Rachel's jealousy led to her human viewpoint solution to give Bilhah to Jacob. Gen.30:1-4
  - B.** The jealousy/envy of Joseph's brothers motivated them to want to murder him; when this plan failed, they sold him into slavery (good ex. of admixture of jealousy and envy; envious of Joseph's dream; jealous as a threat to their own hierarchy as brothers). Gen.37:11-28; Act.7:9
- XVI.** Divine love is not jealous; jealousy is incompatible with divine good production under the FHS. 1Cor.13:4
- XVII.** Jealousy is used as an anthropopathism describing God's possessiveness with respect to those that are His. Deu.4:24; 6:14-15; Jam.4:1-5
- XVIII.** Righteous jealousy is used to describe the zeal of the adjusted P-T with respect to his congregation. 2Cor.11:2
- XIX.** It is used in a righteous way as to the positive believer's zeal for God. Num.25:11-13