

THEME: SEVEN DEADLY PASSIONS – JEALOUSY

TOPIC: WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS OF JEALOUSY?

**TEXT: ROMANS 8:5-8, JAMES 3:13-16; 4:2-3; 1 CORINTHIANS 13:3-4;
PHILIPPIANS 2:3**

Introduction

It's been noted that passions can be good if they spur you on to greater things for Christ. But passions can also be bad or harmful as discovered with Worry. This week we are looking at Jealousy as the next deadly passion that could dominate a person's life.

Paul's description of the impact of the problem of jealousy immediately brings to the surface the reason why the believer should stay away from it. *Hebrews 12:15 (KJV)*
Paul describes it as developing roots and troubling the believer, and the final effect is that it poisons every part of the Christian's life.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS OF JEALOUSY?

The fact is we all struggle with it, either in minute form or as a major issue. We may not like to believe, accept or admit to. Sometimes we call it being possessive but it is still descriptive of one and the same problem.

Some have it under control, seething underneath so that nobody knows what they are going through, while others do not. Possessiveness is often used because the word jealousy is very intimidating. While we are walking in jealousy we feel as if somebody has walked into our space and therefore we need to make a demand for that space.

1. Jealousy is a prison, an Alcatraz that may even be difficult to be admitted, and those who are held in it, unless they are set free by the Word of God find themselves in a lifetime prison. The consequence is that not only do they hurt themselves they also poison everything around them.
2. Jealousy makes you fear the non-existent and in the end causes you to abuse those who are around you. Jealousy may be found at the root of spouse cheating, because the one who is thought to have been left behind now feels they must revenge.
3. It is the feeling that follows when you feel you have not been applauded, you have not been appreciated or when you did not get a mention. Jealousy makes you deny other people their moments of celebration.
4. The man who walks in jealousy behaves as if those who have been applauded or have experienced a breakthrough are their problem and the more accolades and appreciation the man who got a breakthrough gets, the worse it gets for the jealous. Saul was okay with David's breakthrough and was ready to celebrate it until the women took particular note and sang a song to David. Saul's response was as if it was not fair that they praised David, after all, he should get some of it.
5. Another scenario where jealousy pops up is particularly when two people end their relationship and the other person seems to progress in spite of the breakdown. The person who thought they would not be progress becomes jealous, bitchy and subsequently attack the person and work of the one who is making progress.

They look for areas they can tear apart, they deny what seems so obvious to everyone as progress and when confronted with the fact that they are jealous they deny it.

6. Jealousy is described as being as “strong as the sin of witchcraft”. You may not come out of the problem of jealousy if you do not understand basic human psychology that people are fickle, they would praise you today, and change their mind tomorrow. If you build your identity on their praise, it wounds you when they withdraw it. ***Galatians 5:19-21***

Joseph was a good boy to his brothers until he began to talk of a great dream and his father also acknowledged him with a coat of many colours. It is interesting how people will be ready sometimes to stand with you in your moment of trouble, but they will have problems handling it when you come out of that trouble and succeed exceedingly. They wait for you to fail again so they can feel vindicated and make new demands upon you.

7. The jealous person fails to understand that promotion comes from the Lord. Promotion is born out of divine purpose, not fairness in life. You never get what is fair, you get what you negotiate or what the Lord gives you in promotion.
8. Jealousy is often born out of the attitude of comparison. When we begin to feel we deserve or are better than the person who has experienced a certain blessing. Whenever you compare yourself with people, you blame God for not making duplicates. It is short-sightedness because it makes you belittle, berate and estimate your life by the present blessing somebody else has had.

Favour comes on people by the leading of God, it is not because you deserved it or had the right to it. Jealousy focuses your eyes on people’s possession, position, positioning, privileges and perks of life.

9. Jealousy will make you want to run your marriage like somebody else’s. It will make you want what another couple has. You want to be as good as they are. But it is basically like what happened to David when Saul suggested he used his armour. Jealousy is borrowing other people’s armour to try to run your life in.
10. It comes into a life that is built purely on the thing we want to control. You can be jealous if your life is woven around your wife, husband, job or money.
11. Jealousy is manifest also in the life of people whose lifestyle and outlook is one-dimensional. They have no other source of success, joy or expression.

CONCLUSION

So, when our desire for something takes the place of God, then it is a sin. James 3:16 says, “For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.” If you have ever struggled with jealousy, you probably know this to be true.

Jealousy is linked to coveting, which is a form of idolatry (**Colossians 3:3-5**). **Idolatry of the heart is when we make gods out of our desires.**