

# True Godly Love: Jealousy and Boastful

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NLT)** *Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude.*

## I. What is Jealousy?

### A. Godly Jealousy

**Exodus 34:14 (NLT)** *You must worship no other gods, for the LORD, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you.*

When God says, “I... am a jealous God,” this is not human jealousy rooted in insecurity, envy, or emotional instability. The Hebrew word used here is *qannā’* (קָנָא), which refers to a righteous, covenant-protecting zeal.

In the Old Testament, God’s relationship with His people is often pictured like a marriage covenant. Just as a faithful spouse has a rightful expectation of exclusivity, God has a rightful claim to His people’s worship and loyalty. So “jealous” means: He demands exclusive devotion, He refuses to share His people with idols, and He zealously protects the covenant relationship. **God’s Jealousy is His passionate love in action!**

**2 Corinthians 11:2 (NLT)** *For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ.*

### B. Sinful nature: Jealousy

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NLT)** *Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous...*

The Greek word translated “jealous” is “zeloi” (ζῆλοι), which can mean zeal, envy, or rivalry depending on the context. Here, Paul uses it in the negative sense — **envy that resents another’s blessing, success, or favor.**

### Corinthians is a corrective book

**1 Corinthians 14:26 (NASB 2020)** *What is the outcome then, brothers and sisters? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. All things are to be done for edification.*

In the Corinthian church, jealousy and competition were major problems. Believers were comparing spiritual gifts, social status, and influence. Some were proud of their gifts (like speaking in tongues or prophecy), while others felt inferior or envious of those who had them. So when Paul says “love is not jealous,” he’s correcting that mindset.

**1 Corinthians 14:12 (ESV)** *So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.*

### Personal injury of Jealousy:

**Proverbs 14:30 (NLT)** *A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.*

**Proverbs 27:4 (NLT)** *Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but jealousy is even more dangerous.*

## II. Boasting

**Boast:** g4068. περπερεύομαι perpereuomai; to boast: — vaunt itself. AV (1) - vaunt itself 1; to boast one's self

**1 Corinthians 3:3-4 (NASB 2020)** *I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to consume it. But even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like ordinary people? For when one person says, “I am with Paul,” and another, “I am with Apollos,” are you not ordinary people?*

**1 Corinthians 4:7 (NASB 2020)** *For who considers you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?*

**James 3:14-16 (NLT)** But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting (arrogant) and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

**2620.** κατακαυχᾶσθαι katakauchaomai; from 2596 and 2744; to boast against, be arrogant (toward); to triumph over:--arrogant(2), arrogant toward(1), triumphs over(1).

**Religious spirit:**

**Luke 18:11-12 (ESV)** The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB 2020)** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

### III. What walking this out looks like

**1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT)** Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy.

**Galatians 5:6 (NASB 2020)** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

**God's kind of love (Greek agapē) seeks the good of others, not personal glory. It's selfless, secure, and content in God's provision.**

**Romans 12:15 (NASB 2020)** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

**When we walk in godly love, we can rejoice with those who rejoice, because our sense of worth and joy is rooted in God, not in comparisons or competition, not comparing ourselves with others**

**2 Corinthians 10:12-13 (NKJV)** For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us...

**Love says, "I'm glad they have it; may God bless them even more."**

**Philippians 2:3-4 (NKJV)** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

**Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)** Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**"Love is not jealous" means that true, Christlike love is free from envy and content in God's blessings, choosing to celebrate others rather than compete with them.**