

IMAGO DEI – The Jealousy of God

March 25-26, 2023

Exodus 34:12-14 (NIV) – “Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles. Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God”.

“The human heart is a perpetual idol factory” – *John Calvin*

Exodus 20:3-6 (NIV) – “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments”.

Numbers 5:14-15 (NIV) - “and if feelings of jealousy come over her husband and he suspects his wife his wife and she is impure – or if he is jealous and suspects her even though she is not impure – the he is to take his wife to the priest. He must also take an offering of a tenth of an ephah of barley flour on her behalf. He must not pour olive oil on it or put incense on it, because it is a grain offering for jealousy, a reminder-offering to draw attention to wrongdoing”.

Numbers 5:29-31 (NIV) – “This, then, is the law of jealousy when a woman goes astray and makes herself impure while married to her husband, or when feelings of jealousy come over a man because he suspects his wife. The priest is to have her stand before the Lord and is to apply this entire law to her. The husband will be innocent of any wrongdoing, but the woman will bear the consequences of her sin”.

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Jeremiah 31:31-32 (NIV) – “The days are coming”, declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them”, declares the Lord.

“God will put up with a great many things in the human heart, but there is one thing He will not put up with in it – a second place. He who offers God a second place, offers Him no place” – **John Ruskin**

“God’s jealousy is love in action. He refuses to share the human heart with any rival, not because He is selfish and wants us all for Himself, but because He knows that upon that loyalty to Him depends our very moral life. God is not jealous *of* us; He is jealous *for* us” – **Alan Redpath**

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 (NIV) – “For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness”.

1 Corinthians 10:11-13 (NIV) – “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it”.

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1 Corinthians 10:14-17 (NIV) – “Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf”.

1 Corinthians 10:18-22 (NIV) – “Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons. Are we trying to arouse the Lord’s jealousy? Are we stronger than He?”

“Without it we are not Christians; we are only carcasses of Christians. My design is to woo and allure poor souls into a marriage covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ. In this marriage relation between Christ and his people there is a giving of themselves each to the other. Christ gives himself to the soul. ‘I will be yours,’ he says to the soul, ‘to love you, to save you, to make you happy in me and with me. I, with all my riches and treasures, will be fully and forever yours.’ On the other hand, the soul gives itself to Christ. ‘I will be thine,’ says the soul to Christ. ‘I will be for thee and not for another’”
– **Edward Pearse**