

## Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another  
in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



Who is God? What is He like? Can He be known? These are the most important questions in the universe. The good news is God has answered these questions by revealing Himself through His attributes. The most important thing we can do in the universe is grow in our knowledge of God. We have been created by God to know God. For the season of Lent our devotions will be on knowing God through His attributes.

### Jealous

God is a covenant making and covenant keeping God. He is always faithful to his covenant and he expects his people to be faithful as well. Idolatry is the same as spiritual adultery toward God. God's description of himself as jealous is only given in the context of idolatry. Just as marriage is meant to be an exclusive relationship, so is our relationship with God.

Because God is without sin, God's jealousy in response to idolatry is righteous and holy and justified. God is jealous for his name, his glory, his honor, and for his people. God is jealous for his relationship with his people because he passionately loves them and does not want them to be destroyed by idolatry. God created them and called them and chose them to be his people. Because of his great love for them, he is jealous for them.

### Scripture on God Being a Jealous God

**Exodus 20:4-5** *You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.*

**Exodus 34:13-14** *You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God).*

**Deuteronomy 4:23-24** *Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the Lord your God has forbidden you. For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*

**Deuteronomy 32:16** *They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger.*

**Psalms 78:56-58** *Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies, but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow. For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols.*

**Isaiah 42:8** *I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.*

**Ezekiel 39:25** *Therefore thus says the Lord God: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name.*

**John 2:15-17** Making a whip of cords, Jesus drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

**I Corinthians 6:19-20** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**James 4:4-6** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

## **Song**

**Psalm 59:16** But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

### ***The Lord Is Jealous***

The Lord is jealous to uphold His excellence and glory  
For unto Him all praise is due, since He alone is worthy.  
He will uphold His fame, for Jealous is His name;  
The idol worshiper His violent wrath will stir—  
He will defend His honor.

The Lord has purified a bride to be His faithful lover,  
Though she had once profaned His name and glorified another.  
The Father's jealous wrath Christ bore on our behalf—  
His blood for sin atoned that we might be brought home  
To show His fame forever.

The Lord will not forsake His bride who bears His name and splendor;  
Against His church no foe can stand—He rises to defend her.  
His zealous people go to herald and to show  
The glory of His grace to ev'ry tribe and race,  
That all might love and praise Him.

("The Lord is Jealous" text Eric Schumacher & David L. Ward © 2010 ThousandTongues.org, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

## **Prayer**

**II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Holy Father, we acknowledge what your Word acknowledges, that you are a jealous God. But your jealousy is not like our jealousy. Your jealousy is holy, righteous, just and justified. You are God, there is none higher or greater. You are right to be jealous for your glory, honor, and name.

You are jealous for all that is yours, and all things are yours. You are jealous for the worship and affection of your people. Thank you for being jealous for us, with a jealousy that is protective, that is zealous to love us and be faithful to us.

Remind us again and again, for we so quickly forget, that all sin is idolatry, and idolatry is adultery. When we sin we are putting something ahead of you, putting our desires ahead of your desires, giving our affection away to something else. Forgive us for being so casual about sin and failing to see how serious an offense it really is. In the OT your people are often described as whoring after other gods, such is the offense of all sin.

Enable us to truly repent and turn away from all sinful idolatry, to love your glory and your honor and your name as you do. Turn our love into an exclusive love for you and you alone. Make us eager for you to be glorified in this dark and evil world, that your name would be hallowed and lifted up. You created us and redeemed us, you have a right to our exclusive love for you. Take what is yours and secure it for all eternity. Change our hearts to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. For the sake of Jesus, Amen.