

GOD IS _____

Part 15: God is Jealous

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June 14 & 15, 2014

God is jealous

The first use of the phrase *jealous God* in the Bible:

¹God spoke all these words, saying:

²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

³"You shall have no other gods before me."

⁴"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. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a *jealous God*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

—Exodus 20:1-6

The first component of our covenant with God is priority

God says, "I am *first*."

The second component of our covenant with God is fidelity

God says, "I am *your only*."

Marriage is the other key relationship that begins with a contract promising these two components.

God's jealousy is invoked by idolatry.

An idol is anything we love *more than* or *instead of* God.

The difference between our human, cultural understanding of the word *jealous* and God's righteous divine, definition:

God is not jealous of

God is jealous for

(Continues on back)

God's jealousy is not a substitute for his love, but actually one of its strongest manifestations!

“Godly, divine jealousy is love fighting against extinction. Human, sinful jealousy is what happens when love has gone extinct.”
— Tim Keller

When our relationship with God is threatened, God's *jealousy for* us manifests itself in two major ways:

- 1) God's jealousy protects us
- 2) God's jealousy pursues us

Story from Scripture:

Hosea chapters 1-3

Small Group Questions

- 1) Have you ever had a time when you felt extreme jealousy?
- 2) What would change (if anything) in your life if you made God your first and only?
- 3) How does your view of God change knowing that he is jealous **for** you?
- 4) How have you seen God's love in your life through his protection and pursuit?
- 5) How can we pray for you today?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.