

**Love Is Not Jealous**

I Corinthians 13:4

We've seen that love is *the* mark of genuine Christianity and it is a verb of action. Jesus said by our love "*all people will know*" that we are His disciples (John 13:36). Love is also the solution for every problem we face, for love never fails. Love is "patient and kind" and "**love is not jealous.**"

**I. Jealousy is a spirit of dissatisfaction with the prosperity of others.**

More precisely, it is an appraisal of another person's prosperity as I compare it to my own. "*A tranquil heart gives life to the body, but jealousy will make the bones rot*" (Proverb 14:30).

**A. My bones rot when I am jealous of the *position* of others.**

Instead of rejoicing in others' promotion, there's dissatisfaction: It should be me! Haman was a man of wealth and riches, yet said of Mordecai, "*All of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting in the king's gate*" (Esther 5:13).

**B. My bones rot when I am jealous of the *possessions* of others.**

Joseph's brothers envied him because of his *coat of many colors*, given to him by their father, and it represented family leadership (Gen. 37:3). The brothers envied that coat.

**C. My bones rot when I am jealous of the *personhood* of others.**

Once I begin comparing things I don't have that others do, I will start denigrating people. "Joseph's brothers saw that their father gave to him the coat; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms" (in peace) (Gen. 37:4). Any critical words I give typically reveal a spirit of jealousy in me. This jealousy will eat away at my welfare.

**II. A jealous spirit is taken on by the Spirit who is transforming our hearts.**

It doesn't mean Christians will never experience jealousy. This means it is not the norm. What is it that the Spirit of Jesus Christ does when He makes our hearts His home?

**A. The Spirit of God gives His people a heart of rest and contentment.**

A Christian is disposed by the Spirit to learn contentment within our circumstances: Whether our rank be as high as that of angels, or as low as that of beggars. We learn, by God's grace, how to be "self-satisfied" in any situation we are in (Philippians 4:11).

**B. The Spirit of God gives His people a heart of rejoicing and confidence.**

"*Rejoice with those that are rejoicing ...*" (Rom. 12:15). The Spirit of love will work at casting out any spirit of envy, enabling us to find happiness in seeing others prosper. This is what we call "The Life of God in the Soul of Man." We replicate our Father.

**III. A jealous spirit is a signal to you of impending trouble in your life.**

The beauty of your life's story is that you endure conflict and pain for great things. Jealousy reveals messed up priorities: Your focus is on lesser things rather than God's great things.

**A. It reveals a character that needs changing.**

Paul calls jealousy "abominable" (Gal. 5:20-21), and "carnal" (II Cor.12:20). It is one of the hateful sins that Christians lived in *before* conversion (James 3:14,16). Character only changes through pain; God may allow "my bones to grow old" to break me of jealousy.

**B. It reveals a disconnect from the life of Christ.**

Everything about Christ reveals a rest and contentment in His circumstances. But on the other hand, when you can lay aside any jealousy or envy and love others as God loves you, others begin to see the life transforming power and grace of Christ at work. Is there anyone in your life for whom you are jealous? If so, confess, repent...and love.