

CouplesInBloom.com – Good Jealousy

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“**Woe (grief) to those** who call **evil good** and **good evil**,” ⇨ Isaiah 5:20. This applies to everyone, especially **Christians whose convictions contradict God’s convictions**. Whether through authentic ignorance or intentional denial, James 3:1 ⇨ says not many people should teach, because their judgment will be greater... because Christians, of all people, should understand from Scripture what God calls evil and what God calls good.

God created everything good ⇨ Genesis 2. Perversion of good occurred through free will choices of created beings ⇨ Genesis 3. Therefore, sin is a damaged rendition of good things God made. **Swearing** is a perversion of vows ⇨ Hebrews 6:13-16; **killing** is a perversion of spiritual warfare ⇨ 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; **fighting** is a perversion of faith ⇨ 1 Timothy 6:12. The **Ten Commandments**, for example, refer to **perversions of good**.

- Exodus 20:1-7 ⇨ **worshipping** the one true God versus perversions thereof.
- Exodus 20:8-11 ⇨ **maintaining** God’s schedule versus perverting it.
- Exodus 20:12-17 ⇨ **honoring** God’s social government versus perverting it.

Do not call something evil just because it is intense: God is love ⇨ 1 John 4:8-16 and His love is intense ⇨ John 3:16. God gets angry about sin ⇨ Romans 1:18 and that anger is intense ⇨ Zephaniah 1:14-18. Intensity is not evil; do not call **good evil** or **evil good!**

Exodus 20:17 ⇨ addresses **coveting** while Exodus 20:5 ⇨ addresses God’s **jealousy**. *Literally*: **coveting** refers to **lust** while **jealousy** refers to **zeal**. 1 Corinthians 13:4 ⇨ says (agape / giving) love is not envious (wanting to take). **Jealousy** is often considered evil, as are other intense emotions. Again: we must not call **evil good** or **good evil**. Read these:

- ♥ “For I am jealous over you with **godly jealousy**, for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” ⇨ 2 Corinthians 11:2.
- ♥ “For you shall worship no other god. For Jehovah, **whose name is Jealous**, is a jealous God” ⇨ Exodus 34:14.
- ♥ “For Jehovah your God is a consuming fire, a **jealous God**.” ⇨ Deuteronomy 4:24.

God is jealous / zealous for us, His Bride, because His love is intense ⇨ 2 Corinthians 11:2. As marriage represents relationship with God, a husband should experience Godly jealousy for his wife and his wife should long for it. Isaiah 63:15 ⇨ shows this longing:

“Look down from Heaven, and look down from the place of Your holiness and of Your glory; **where is Your zeal** (*literally jealousy*) and Your strength, the multitude of **Your tender affections** and of Your mercies **toward me?** Are they withheld?” The Song of Solomon echoes this same longing: “Kiss me...” ⇨ 1:2 and “Draw me...” ⇨ 1:4. God designed this wonderful and holy longing both for marriage and for intimacy with Him.

Husbands: **YES** or **NO: Are you jealous for your wife?**

YES or **NO: Does your wife feel your zeal for her?**

Look up verses in your own Bible to learn how God is jealous for you, His Bride (some are listed above). What do nearby verses show you about how God communicates that He is **zealous** and **jealous** for you? Receive and enjoy it, then invest time and effort figuring out ways how **your** wife can receive and enjoy **your zeal** and **jealousy** for her! ♥