

BITTER JEALOUSY

Request: “I have been ministering to a believer who has a problem with extreme jealousy. Could you do a study on ‘bitter jealousy’ as mentioned in James 3:13-18?”

Shakespeare wrote, “O, beware, my lord of jealousy! It is a green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on.” (Othello)

The Hebrew word for jealousy captures the deep emotional side of bitter jealousy (**qineah**) – “For jealousy enrages a man, and he will not spare in the day of vengeance.” (Prov.6:34)

James shows **bitter jealousy** to be a sin of the heart by the Greek words, **pikros zelos** – “But if (Icc / true) you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in (en+loc. of sphere) your heart (te kardia), do not be arrogant and so lie to the truth.” (Jms.3:14)

This lesson will study four aspect of Bitter Jealousy as a green-eyed monster to be reckoned with in the CWL.

1. In James 3:13-18, James contrasted two types of wisdom that believers embrace.

He calls one the Wisdom from Above [heavenly or divine] (Jms.3:17) and the other wisdom as from below [earthly, natural, and demonic] (Jms.3:15).

James began with a rhetorical question – “Who among you is wise and understanding?” (Jms.3:13a)

Then he gave the answer – “Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.” (Jms.3:13b)

Next James explains his answer by contrasting the two types of wisdom embraced by believers in their hearts (beliefs) that affects their lives (behavior). (Jms.3:14-18)

WISE (Jms.3:17-18)

Good behavior
Deeds in the gentleness of wisdom
From Above
Pure
Peaceable
Gentle
Reasonable
Full of mercy
Good fruit (+R)
Unwavering
Without hypocrisy

UNWISE (Jms 3:14-16)

Bitter jealousy
Selfish ambition
Arrogant
Lie against truth
Earthly (epigeios)
Natural (psuchikos)
Demonic (diamoniodes)
Disorder
Evil

Bitter jealousy can be seen in the prodigal elder son (Luke 15:25-32) – “But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with harlots, **you** killed the fattened calf for him.” (15:30) “You have NEVER given **me** a kid, that **I** might be merry with **my** friends.” (15:29b)

2. The source of bitter jealousy is OMCD that James called “earthly, natural, and demonic.”

It operates as reverse process reversionism. The object you once loved becomes the object of scorn and bitter jealousy and hatred.

It is beyond carnality. It is reversionistic cannibalism!

- (Gal.5:15) “But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be **consumed** by one another.”
- (Gal.5:19-21) “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, **jealousy**, outburst of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these.”

It is destructive to relationships because it leads to other hurtful type experiences –

- (James 4:1-2) “**What is the source** of quarrels and conflicts among you? **Is not the source your pleasures** that wage war in your members? You **lust** and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are **envious** and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.”

3. Bitter jealousy can be very deadly.

In fact it is one of the oldest strategies of the devil – “In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.” (2 Cor.2:11)

It was a motivation factor in **Cain** killing his brother Abel (Gen.4:1-8) – “Not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous.” (1 John 3:12)

This was also true of **Joseph’s brother’s** evil intentions against him – “And the patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. And yet God was with him.” (Acts 7:9)

This was true of **Saul** attempts to kill David (1 Sam.18:6-11) – “And Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on. Now it came about on **the next day** that an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and raved in the midst of the house, while David was playing the harp with his hand, as usual; and a spear was in Saul’s hand and Saul hurled the spear for he thought, ‘I will pin David to the wall.’” (18:9-11)

This was true of the **Jewish Sanhedrin** motivation to kill Jesus (Mark 15:1, 10-15) – “For he was aware that the chief priests had delivered Him up **because of envy**.”

4. Because bitter jealousy is rooted in a core belief of OMCD, it will require radical correction beyond confession of sin. This is because it is connected to reverse process reversionism (Eph.4:17-21).

“Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood but who can stand before **jealousy**?” (Prov.27:4)

“Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves **doers of the word**, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” (James 1:21-22)

“For from within, **out of the heart** of men, proceed the **evil thoughts**, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, **envy**, slander, pride, and foolishness.” (Mark.7:21)

- Lay aside OMCD – Eph.4:22
- Be renewed in the spirit of your mind (Eph.4:23) (Rom.12:2)
- Put on NMDV (Eph.4:24) (Eph.4:31-32; Col.3:12-15)

“Love is patient, love is kind, **and is not jealous**; love does not brag **and is not arrogant**.” (1 Cor.13:4; Phil.2:3-4)