



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“Character of God” Series Lesson 18 – December 18, 2016

Communicable Attribute of Jealousy and Wrath

I. Lesson Starters:

Last lesson we looked at the Communicable attribute of Righteousness and Justice. *God’s righteousness means that God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.*

Today we will continue our review of Communicable Attribute of Jealousy and Wrath.

II. Attribute of Jealousy

God’s jealousy means that God continually seeks to protect his own honor.

Exodus 20:5

1 And God spoke all these words: ² *“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”* ³ *“You shall have no other gods before me.”* ⁴ *“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.”* ⁵ *“You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,* ⁶ *but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”* ⁷ *“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”*

Exodus 34:12-14

12 Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. **13 Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles.** **14 Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God**

2 Corinthians 11:1-2

1 I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness. Yes, please put up with me! 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy.

- Jealousy is frequently used in a negative sense in English language
- The sense is to “earnestly protective or watchful”, seeking the honor or welfare of someone
- Scripture represents God as being jealous in this way; Earnestly seeking to protect his own honor
- He desires that worship be given to himself and not to false gods

We typically have trouble thinking of jealousy as a desirable attribute of God. Jealousy for our own honor as human beings is almost always wrong and a symptom of Pride, not humbleness. We must realize, that as humans, we do not deserve the honor that belongs to God alone.

- God freely admits that his actions in creation and redemption are done for his own honor and glory

III. Attribute of Wrath

God’s wrath means that he intensely hates all sin.

Romans 1:18-20

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, *who suppress the truth by their wickedness,* ¹⁹ *since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.* ²⁰ *For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

Exodus 32:9-12

9 “I have seen these people,” the Lord said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.” ¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. “Lord,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?” ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.

Deuteronomy 9:7-8

7 Remember this and never forget how you aroused the anger of the Lord your God in the wilderness. From the day you left Egypt until you arrived here, you have been rebellious against the Lord. ⁸ At Horeb you aroused the Lord’s wrath so that he was angry enough to destroy you.

It may be a surprise to some to find out how frequently the Bible speaks about the wrath of God. Since God loves all that is right and good, this is in line with his moral character. Not surprisingly, he hates everything that is opposed to his moral character. God’s wrath is directed against sin, which is the opposite to God’s Holiness and Justice. Some have falsely attempted to say that God’s wrath is contained only within the Old Testament (John 3:36; Col 3:6; 1 Thes 1:10, 2:16, 5:9; Heb 3:11; Rev 6:16-17, 19:15)

- The attribute of wrath is reason to thank and praise God
- While some may view Wrath at times as a negative concept in isolation, it might bring only fear and dread
- Yet we need to ask ourselves, what would God be like if he did not hate sin? Would he delight in sin or be neutral or not troubled by it?
- Such a God would not be worthy of our worship, for sin is hateful and is worthy of being hated.
- It is actually a virtue to hate evil and sin (Heb 1:9; Zech 8:17), we rightly imitate this attribute of God when we feel hatred against great evil, injustice and sin

IV. Christians should feel no Fear of God’s Wrath

Ephesians 2:3-5

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

- Through salvation, Lord Jesus Christ bore our sin that spares us from the coming “Wrath of God”
- God’s patience is also shown in Him waiting to execute his wrath in order that more can be saved
- God’s wrath should drive two strong feeling in Christians, 1) Thankful for punishment of sin and 2) motivation for evangelism to rescue the unsaved

V. Group Questions:

1. How can Jealousy as described in scripture that is exhibited by God be “good”, but in most cases jealousy exhibited by man are “prideful”?
2. In section III on God’s Wrath, what is the source of moving God to this point, be specific?
3. Discuss why God’s wrath must be an attribute that goes hand in glove with Righteousness and Holiness?
4. Do you agree that a saved Christian will be saved from “God’s Wrath” even though we are sinful? Discuss why or why not?
5. Since Christians avert “God’s wrath”, what should our reaction be to this truth of God’s wrath?

Study material is primarily taken from Systematic Theology by Wayne Gruden, Chapter 10,-13; The Broadman Bible Commentary by the Southern Baptist Convention and Unger’s Bible Dictionary.