

## LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS! OR IS IT?

by Herb Montgomery  
Director | Speaker



“For you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.” Exodus 34:14

I received an email recently from a friend of mine in Australia. He was excited about a study that he had just finished on God’s wrath. His conclusions were truly moving and they reminded me of some of the very same conclusions I had come to a few years ago. I had been puzzled about the Bible’s

use of the word “Jealousy” as it pertains to God. My quandary went as follows:

John states that “God is love.” (1 John 4:8) Paul states that “Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous.” (1 Corinthians 13:4) Yet, Moses states that God “is a jealous God.” (Exodus 34:14) How are we to make sense out of this apparent contradiction? God is love, love isn’t jealous, God is jealous. *Hmmm . . . Interesting.*

Our first clue is found in Paul’s second letter to the believers in Corinth. He wrote to them, “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy.” (2 Corinthians 11:2)

Is there a “godly jealousy” that is the very expression of love and an “ungodly jealousy” of which God would never claim to be? There must be! Again, Paul says in his letter to the Galatian believers, “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality. . . jealousy. . . things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21, *emphasis added*)

So, what is the difference between godly and ungodly jealousy? James gives us another hint: “But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.” (James 3:14-16, *emphasis added*)

The difference between the two is simple. One is based on complete, unabbreviated, other-centered concern for the highest welfare of its object. The other is rooted in the self-centered concern for one’s personal loss. In the Hebrew, jealousy can express a very strong emotion whereby some quality or possession for the object is desired by the subject. (Brown Driver Briggs).

Could it be that a soul truly finds its greatest joy and happiness when that soul is loving Him who is Love? If so, then would God have an other-centered motive for being jealous of His

competition?

Why is God jealous? Because it’s all about you, dear one. He wants what’s best for you. He knows that the things which your heart may long for above Him are truly self-destructive and will only hurt you. He who sins against God “injures himself.” (Proverbs 8:36) It is not for His sake that He cries out in wrath against His competition, but for yours. He will suffer nothing to hurt the apple of His eye. Your well-being, not His own, is His supreme concern and passion. His jealousy is absolute, yet completely and perfectly other-centered.

This may be hard for us to grasp since the only jealousy we know is that which springs from our own self-centered hearts. God cries out, however, not out of fear of His own personal loss, but because He is jealous for you. I don’t know about you . . . but there have been plenty of times in my life where I needed a God who cares for me more than I have cared for myself.

“Jehovah as a mighty one goeth forth. As a man of war He is jealous, He crieth, yea, He shrieketh, against His enemies He showeth Himself mighty.” (Isaiah 42:13) †

### *To Christ Crucified*

Heaven that you have promised me, my God,  
Does not move me to love you.  
Nor does hell so dreadful move me  
To leave all that offends you.

You move me, Lord. It moves me to see you  
Mocked, nailed to that cross.

It moves me to see your body so wounded.  
Your dishonour moves me, and your death.

You move me to your love in such a way  
That—even if there were no heaven—I would love you;  
And—even if there were no hell—I would fear you.

You do not have to give to gain my love;  
For—even if what I hope for becomes hopeless—  
In the same way I love you, I would love you still.

—Translated by Stacy Shoop, 1996  
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# MINISTRY UPDATE



## Leoni Meadows Men's Retreat

What an amazing event. Over 450 men in Northern California attended this year's annual conference wide men's retreat. Each session led us closer into the heart of our Father God. The greatest moment was the morning of the last session. We took time to look to Calvary. What an incredible experience it was as we allowed God to unfold His love for us revealed through the cross. Almost every person came forward at the end in surrender to the great Lover of our souls. It was truly an amazing four days.

## Durant, OK

Those who have followed the ministry's activity over time have seen this location mentioned before. This time was no different. Durant has a passion for its community. This was, once again, made evident as folks from, not only the local Adventist church, but other churches in the area as well, attended the four presentations over the weekend. Doors are opening in this small Oklahoma town. Hearts were touched by God's love. Lives were changed.



## Mt. Vernon Academy Graduation & Glendale Adventist Academy Graduation

Well, graduation season has once again come and gone. Part of Renewed Heart Ministries' passion is that not only Adults, but Young People would be able to encounter the truth about our Heavenly Father and His love, as well. It was my privilege to return to two campuses this spring

where we had conducted weeks of prayer in the last couple school years to deliver the class of 2008's commencement address. I believe God is calling today's generation to choose ministries, not simply occupations. God is calling today's generation to understand the love of a God who risked even heaven itself to save us. And to, "With both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-19, *The Message*) †



## Testimony...

*"We believe that your message of God's loving image – especially the Father's – is the most important message for the world today. Those who need the gospel – particularly those of the secular world -- are biased against the Christian church, which they see as hypocritical. Just like the Pharisees, Christianity – ever since the church became "big business" -- has preached the doctrine of fear and legalism—an un-Christian message -- rather than the doctrine of love. Christianity often preaches "You can be saved from eternal hellfire if you accept the gift of salvation that Jesus provided for you on the cross if you DO all these things and DON'T DO those things." I call this the "pretty good news". This comes far short of the gospel – the good news . . . People don't want, and are not enthusiastically drawn to, the "pretty good news". What they want and need is the REALLY good news of the gospel, which is the truth of God's love. Neither can Christians enthusiastically share the "pretty good news" – yet for many, this is all they have to share. For this reason, your message of God's love – specifically that of the Father's love -- is the key to a worldwide revival today both inside and outside the church, because there are many "Christians," just like their secular counterparts, who have yet to find the truth of God's love. Herb, thank you for listening to and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit. This message is so important, so timely, and so key to revival in the world today, that you should continue to expect, not only our support, but as you make others aware of the importance and timeliness of the message, your ministry should be richly blessed. May God bless you and your ministry" —M & D B*

## God's Love For Man.

Ellen White, *Steps to Christ*, pp.10-15

The word of God reveals His character. He Himself has declared His infinite love and pity. When Moses prayed, "Show me Thy glory," the Lord answered, "I will make all My goodness pass before thee." Exodus 33:18, 19. This is His glory. The Lord passed before Moses, and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." Exodus 34:6, 7. He is "slow to anger, and of great kindness," "because He delighteth in mercy." Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18. {SC 10.2}

God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent His love. Though all these evidences have been given, the enemy of good blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear; they thought of Him as severe and unforgiving. Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice,—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men. {SC 10.3}

The Son of God came from heaven to make manifest the Father. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." John 1:18. "Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." Matthew 11:27. When one of the disciples made the request, "Show us the Father," Jesus answered, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" John 14:8, 9. {SC 11.1}

In describing His earthly mission, Jesus said, The Lord "hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18. This was His work. He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by Satan. There were whole villages where there was not a moan of sickness in any house, for He had passed through them and healed all their sick. His work gave evidence of His divine anointing. Love, mercy, and compassion were revealed in every act of His life; His heart went out in tender sympathy to the children of men. He took man's nature, that He might reach man's wants. The poorest and humblest were not afraid to approach Him. Even little children were attracted to Him. They loved to climb upon His knees and gaze into the pensive face, benignant with love . . . .

Such love is without a parallel . . . Theme for the most profound meditation! The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God. The more we study the divine character in the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice, and the more clearly we discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite and a tender pity surpassing a mother's yearning sympathy for her wayward child.



## TESTIMONIES . . .

*"Herb, I have been introduced to your messages and am excited to learn more. I find your material to be truly inspiring and I pray that you will continue in following the Lord and helping us to "see" Him better."—TB*

*"It is always good to find such encouraging words, especially in these days of uncertainty. God bless all of you and all your work! There are others I know who would enjoy this and I will send your site name to them also. Thank you!"—DJ*

*"I do want to say that you have opened my eyes to see God in a new light, of which I praise and thank God! I get it!"—M*

*"In addition, your concept of the picture of God, forgiveness, the focus on Gods love, all these things are what I need most now, it makes most sense to me."—M*

*Herb, I listened to your messages the 2 years you were at camp meeting . . . When I discovered your web site I went back and*

*listened to many of your sermons (and several new ones) again. It was so awesome to listen and see how much I have changed and how far God has brought me. God used your ministry to speak to my heart and show me His GREAT love for me. Because I*

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***"...Your teachings are like a cool drink of water on a hot day..."***

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*didn't totally trust God I was never totally free. I am grateful to God that I am free now (I still have a few questions but I trust God to know that someday He will answer them for me.) After listening to "Why did God allow this to happen?" for about the 6th time I finally got it. Yes, I understood what you were saying with my head but my heart wasn't there yet. I am so thankful for a God who patiently persisted until I "got it" in my heart too. It is wonderful to serve a God who is so good. This understanding has transformed my relationships with my*

*kids and my husband. My daughter is doing wonderfully. Like me, she felt she had to be "good enough" for God. As we have studied together she is able to see God so differently . . . I would like to thank you for listening to God's call for your life. I know that this is a hardship for your family. Tell your oldest daughter that I have the ultimate comeback for her when you tell her you love her more. She can say, "Dad, I love you more than you love me because you have only loved me part of your life, but I have loved you all of mine." "I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3—LO*

*"We met you two years ago and I just want to thank you again for your ministry. I have been SDA all my life and have had my fill of legalism and all that goes with that. Your teachings are like a cool drink of water on a hot day. God bless you and your precious family."—Y & F C †*

## CALENDAR

### July 5, 2008

Lewisburg SDA Church  
Lewisburg, WV  
304.647.5925

### July 17-27, 2008

Soquel Camp Meeting  
Central California Conference  
559.347.3000

### August 31-September 5, 2008

Rio Lindo Academy  
Healdsburg, CA  
707.431.5100

### September 5-6, 2008

Loma Linda University  
Good News Tour  
Loma Linda, CA  
888.250.4612

### September 12-21, 2008

Campion SDA Church  
Campion, CO  
970.667.7403

### September 28,-October 2, 2008

Summersville SDA Church  
Summersville, WV  
304.872.6958



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