

From The Minister's Desk

A Zealous Love

"They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle, Feet they have, but they do not walk, Nor do they utter through their throat." - Psalm 115:6-7

We tend to equate jealousy with pettiness and selfishness. We see it as a vice, not a virtue. But when God was giving Moses the Ten Commandments and said He was a jealous God, this is not the type of jealousy He was speaking of. If we were to substitute the term "zealous" for "jealous," it would help in our understanding of it.

God is zealous in His love for you, and He wants you to be zealous in your love for Him. God loves you and wants an exclusive relationship with you. For example, doesn't a wife want her husband to be faithful to her? Doesn't a husband want his wife to be loyal to him? Doesn't a parent look out for his or her children and care about their welfare? Of course.

This is essentially what God was saying when He told Moses, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods" (Exodus 20:5). In other words, "I want your complete love. I don't want you to bow down before other gods."

When the Israelites worshipped the golden calf while Moses was on Mt. Sinai, they rationalized their behavior by saying it was "a festival to the Lord" (Exodus 32:5). Call it what you like, but it was blatant idolatry. And a person who really knows Go, who has experienced a new birth, and is living in fellowship with Him should not need an image or representation to be able to pray. Something is not right when believers feel they need that.

This is a problem because it gives us a false concept of what God is really like. And if the image is false, then the thought of God is false - and ultimately it will produce a character that is false.

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Poteau Church of Christ

Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In...

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Elder on call for August is Dick Moore, (918) 655-3844



Sermon Topics

AM "The Morality & Love of Money"

Part 1 - Haggai 2:8

PM "The Morality & Love of Money"

Part 2 -1Timothy 6:17-19

Elders Winfred Ashley, Earl Garry, Randy Lam, Dick Moore, Rick Parker, Rendall Thompson

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