

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 18:9-14**. Lesson four in our series.
- B. Love is not jealous (not peevish, anxious, irritable, capricious).
- C. Love is not boastful (not a braggart, conceited, prideful, egotistical).

I. THE JEALOUS HEART.*

- A. The Greek for "jealous" and "zealous" is *zelos*. It means **a single-minded devotion**.
- B. Zeal is a single-minded devotion toward others; jealousy is a single-minded devotion to self.
- C. God is a jealous God (Ex. 20:5), because He is totally devoted to Himself. He is totally devoted (jealous) of all the characteristics we know Him by (2Cor. 11:2).
(Ex 20:5) "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,
(2Cor 11:2) For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.
- D. James 3:14-4:10 lists some things about jealousy:
 - 1. It brings selfish ambition, boasting, and lying (3:14).
But if you have bitter jealousy... in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.
 - 2. Disorder, and vile practices exist (3:16).
For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.
 - 3. Quarrels and conflicts come among brethren (4:1).
What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?
 - 4. Lust and murder are fruits of jealousy (4:2).
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.
 - 5. There is friendship with the world and not God (4:4).
You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- E. What is the root cause of jealousy in your life? How would you rate the following?

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| 1. _____ ingratitude. | 4. _____ the desire to be like others. |
| 2. _____ lack of contentment. | 5. _____ worldly values. |
| 3. _____ the pressure of competition. | 6. _____ (other) _____. |
- F. Four answers to jealousy:
 - 1. **Recognize** that whatever others have is a gift from God (Mt. 5:45).
in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
 - 2. **Remember** that all we really need is found in Christ (Eph. 1:3).
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
 - 3. **Recall** how much God has given to you in your life (Col. 3:15-17).
And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
 - 4. **Rekindle** your zeal through prayer (Phil. 4:6).
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

II. THE BRAGGER'S APPETITE.*

- A. Boasting is designed to impress others, even God:
 - 1. In the wrong kinds of prayer (Mt. 6:5).
"And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full."
 - 2. In the wrong kinds of giving (see Ac. 5:1-11).
 - 3. In the wrong kinds of righteousness (see Lk. 18:9-14).
- B. Boasting is bad enough by itself, but it can lead to greater wrongs (Jas. 3:5).
So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!
- C. Some reasons why we brag:
 - 1. To protect a wounded pride and compensate for failure.
 - 2. To cover up inadequacies and doubts.
 - 3. To conceal fear.
 - 4. To cover up insecurities and feelings of inferiority.
 - 5. Some people simply believe they are better than others.
- D. "Another side of this problem of boastfulness is the effect it has on others. The other side of 'big me' is little you."
- E. How to boast (brag) and not sin:
 - 1. We are to boast in the Lord (see 1Cor. 1:26-31).
 - 2. We are to boast in our weaknesses (2Cor. 12:9).
And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
 - 3. We must confine our boasting to what God has done by His grace (Rom. 12:3).
For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
 - 4. We must learn the difference between self-esteem and boasting (2Cor. 10:12-13).
For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. **13** But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.
 - 5. We must learn that no human recognition will ever compare w/the position we hold with God through X (Eph. 2:6).
and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Jealousy and bragging have no place in the life of a Xian who is practicing love.
- B. We can overcome these problems by getting the focus off self on onto others.
- C. May we never have a jealous heart, or a bragging appetite.
- D. The next lesson in this series is on arrogance and rudeness.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.

* Thanks be to Anthony Ash, *Decide to Love*.