

Behold Your God, Part 11: The Love and Jealousy of God



The Love of God

“There can be little doubt that in this manner the one-sidedness and exclusiveness with which the love of God has been preached to the present generation is largely responsible for that universal weakening of the sense of sin, and the consequent decline of interest in the doctrines of atonement and justification.”

--Geerhardus Vos, 1902





Love

1. Love in General
2. The Love of God
3. The Love of God for Himself
4. The Love of God for Us



What is love in general?

- What is love in general?



What is love in general?

Problems with the modern concept of love

1. Love consists only of emotion for the object loved.
2. Love is self-centered



What is love in general?

- Love is indeed affection with emotion.
- **Isaiah 62:5:** *as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So your God will rejoice over you.*



What is love in general?

- But love also consists of **correction**.
- **Hebrews 12:6:** “those whom the Lord loves he disciplines, and he scourges every son whom he receives.”



What is love in general?

“Love consists of affection and also of correction. Babies are cuddled and corrected and both are true expressions of parental love. Furthermore, both are done by parents in the belief that they are doing the best thing for the child at the time. *Love seeks the good for the object loved.*”

--C.C. Ryrie



What is love in general?

- Love is not self-centered but rather **self-sacrificial**.
 - **1 Corinthians 13:5:** Love...does not seek its own.
 - **John 15:13:** “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”



What is love in general?

- Definition of Love:
 - Love is a commitment to give the highest good to the object loved in a self-sacrificial manner.
- **Definition of the Love of God:**
 - “God’s love means that God eternally gives of himself to others.”

--Wayne Grudem



The Love of God

- **Mark 10:18:** “No one is good except God alone.”
- God is the highest good



The Love of God

Love is a
commitment

to give the highest
good

to the object loved
in a self-sacrificial
manner.

The highest
good = GOD

Love is a
commitment

TO GIVE GOD

to the object loved
in a self-sacrificial
manner.



The Love of God

- **Definition of the Love of God:**
God's love is a commitment to give Himself to the object loved in a self-sacrificial manner.



The Love of God

Self-Sacrifice

John 3:16: “For God so **LOVED** the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

And what is eternal life?

John 17:3: “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

The highest good



The Love of God

Self-Sacrifice



1 Peter 3:18: “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”



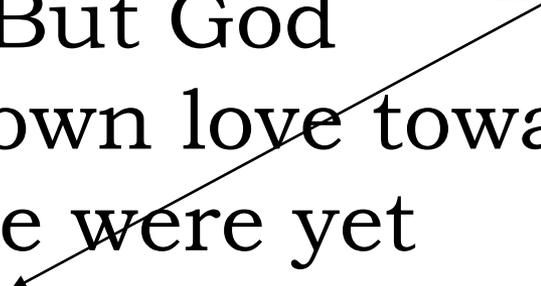
The highest good



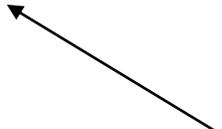
The Love of God

Romans 5:8-10: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us ...for if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son.”

Self-Sacrifice



The highest good





The Love of God

- Universalism = If God is love, shouldn't everyone go to heaven?



The Love of God

“The heresy of universalism grows out of an **unbalanced** concept of the attributes of God. It teaches that since God is love He will ultimately save all people. But God’s perfection of love does not operate apart from His other perfections including holiness and justice. Therefore, love cannot overpower holiness and save those who reject Christ and die in their sins. Furthermore, universalism in reality does not have a proper definition of love since it sees only the affection aspect of love and not the correcting aspect.”

--C.C. Ryrie



The Love of God

- The Love of God is not His **primary** attribute
- God does not have a primary attribute



The Love of God for Himself

- God must love Himself first
- “The worth and excellency of a soul is to be measured by the object of its love. He who loveth mean and sordid things doth thereby become base and vile; but a noble and well-placed affection doth advance and improve the spirit unto conformity with the perfections which it loves.”

--Henry Scougal



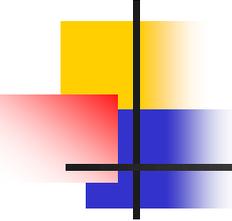
The Love of God for Himself

- God *must* love the most worthy and most excellent of all things for Him to be the most worthy and most excellent of all beings.
- God must love Himself in order for Him to be God.



The Love of God for Himself

- 3 Reasons why God's love for Himself is not selfishness
 - 1. God is the Supreme Being of the Universe.



The Love of God for Himself

“Because God is unique as an all-glorious, totally self-sufficient Being, He must be for Himself if He is to be for us. The rules of humility that belong to a creature cannot apply in the same way to its Creator. If God should turn away from Himself as the Source of infinite joy, He would cease to be God. He would deny the infinite worth of His own glory. He would imply that there is something more valuable outside Himself. He would commit idolatry. This would be no gain for us. For where can we go when our God has become unrighteous?”

--John Piper



The Love of God for Himself

- **Matthew 22:37-38:** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” “This is the great and foremost commandment”
- God obeys His own greatest commandment, for God cannot sin.



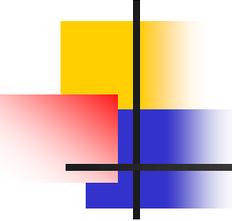
The Love of God for Himself

- 3 Reasons why God's love for Himself is not selfishness
 - 1. God is the Supreme Being of the Universe.
 - 2. God's love for Himself is **beneficial** to others, not harmful to others



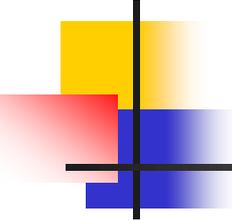
The Love of God for Himself

- We are beneficiaries of God's love for Himself.
 - **Romans 3:24-25:** being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was to demonstrate His righteousness.*”



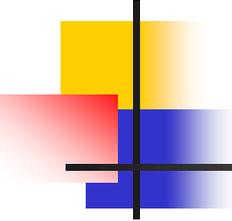
The Love of God for Himself

- God, in loving to demonstrate His attributes of righteousness and grace, gave us the gift of justification



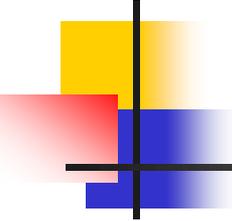
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- 3 Reasons why God's love for Himself is not selfishness
 - 1. God is the Supreme Being of the Universe.
 - 2. God's love for Himself is beneficial to others, not harmful to others
 - 3. God exists in a **Trinity**



The Love of God for Himself

- God is a Trinity
 - God's love for Himself is actually a love for Another



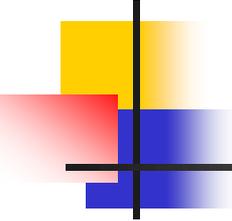
The Love of God for Himself

- **John 5:20:** “the Father loves the Son.”
- **John 14:31,** Jesus says, “so that the world may know that I love the Father.”
- **John 17:24:** “Father...You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”



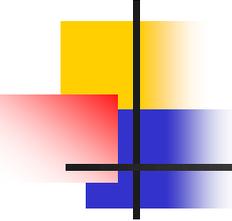
The Love of God for Us

- God does not love all people in the same way
- God loves His own, His elect
 - **John 13:1:** “Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”



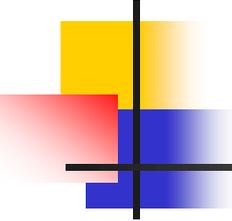
The Love of God for Us

- **Ephesians 1:4-5:** “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself.”

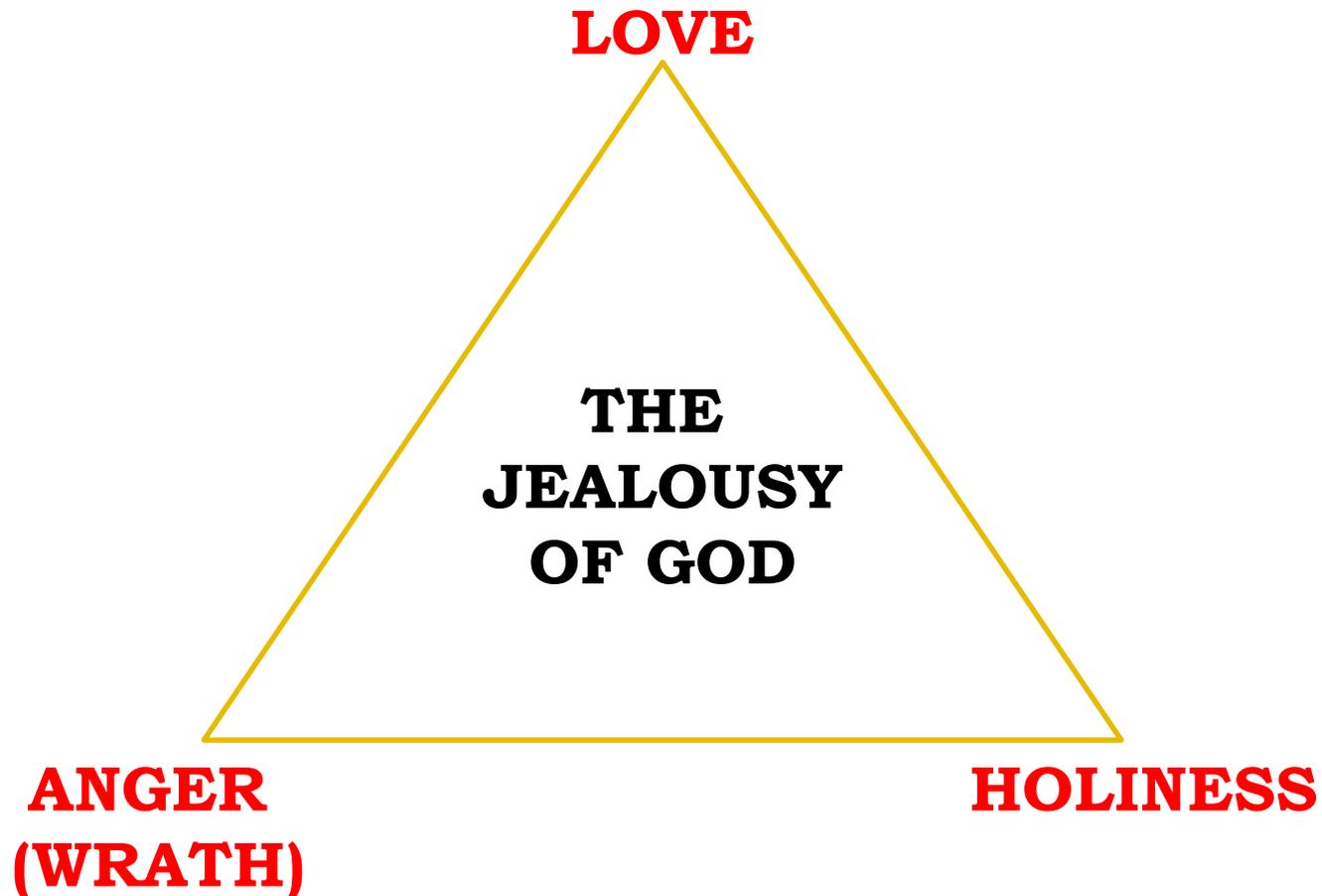


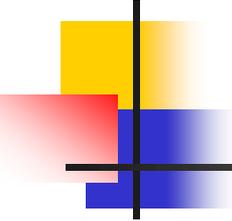
The Love of God for Us

- Jesus is the **elect one**, and we are elect in Him
- When we are elect in Him, we receive the love that the Father has for His Son



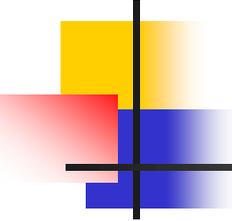
The Jealousy of God





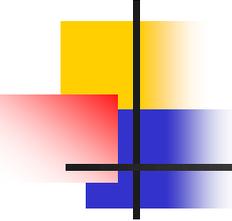
The Jealousy of God

- Found in all three portions of the Old Testament:
 - the Law (Numbers 25:11, Deut 4:24; 6:15, 29:20)
 - the Prophets (Ezekiel 8:3-5, Joel 2:18, Nahum 1:2, Zephaniah 1:18)
 - the Writings (Joshua 24:19, 1 Kings 14:22, Psalm 78:58, 79:5)
- Found in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 10:22)



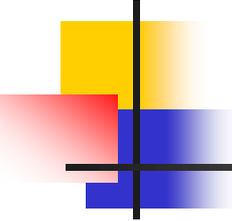
The Jealousy of God

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



The Jealousy of God

- We view jealousy as sinful
 - **1 Cor 3:3**: “for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you.”

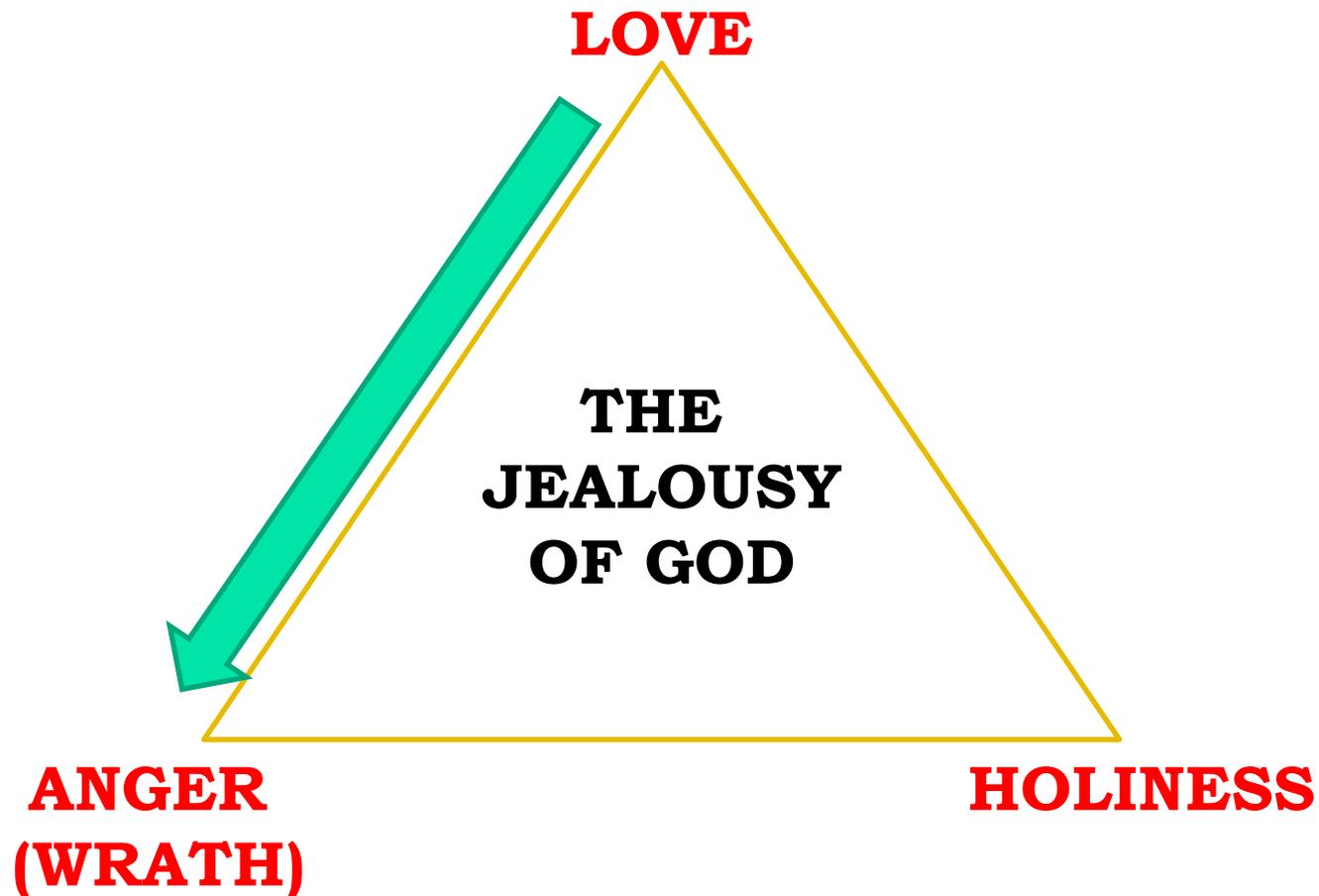


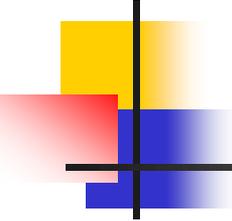
The Jealousy of God

- There is such a thing as godly jealousy
 - **2 Corinthians 11:2:** “for I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin.”

The Jealousy of God

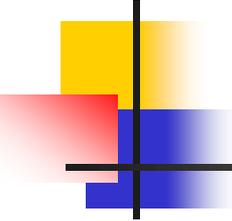
- Jealousy is **angered** love





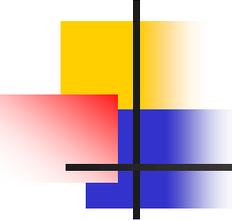
The Jealousy of God

Tim Keller: “Envious love starts being upset because it has lost love, but ends in nothing but destructive anger. It’s all about your ego, it’s all about your hurt pride. Love is replaced by anger, love goes away and you can even attack the person whose love you lost. Godly jealousy is angered love that stays love. It’s not so much about your hurt pride, it’s about the loss of relationship. Godly jealousy is love fighting extinction. [Sinful] jealousy is love gone extinct. Because of your self centeredness, because of your pride, now you hate the person. Godly jealousy is angered love that stays love, that stays committed to rescuing that crumbling love relationship and getting that person back.”



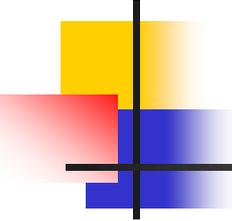
The Jealousy of God

	Root	Fruit
Sinful Jealousy	Hurt Pride Selfishness	Destructive Anger
Godly Jealousy	Defense of Love Relationship	Holiness of the Beloved



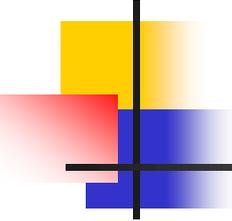
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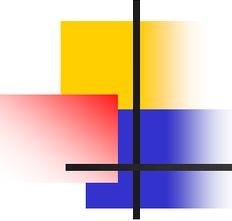
The Jealousy of God

- THE ROOT OF SINFUL JEALOUSY
 - Hurt Pride and Selfishness
 - Saul and David
 - **1 Samuel 16:38 says**, ‘And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly.’



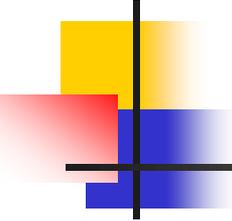
The Jealousy of God

- THE ROOT OF SINFUL JEALOUSY
 - **1 Samuel 18:7-9** says, “The women sang as they played, and said, “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.” Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?” Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.”



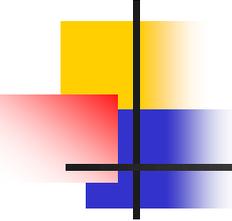
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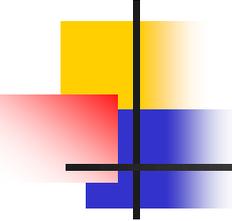
The Jealousy of God

- THE FRUIT OF SINFUL JEALOUSY
 - Wishing harm to the other
 - **1 Sam. 18:10-11; 19:9-10:** Saul tried to kill David with a spear.



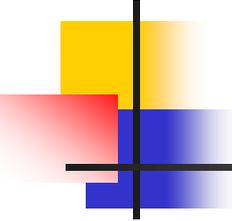
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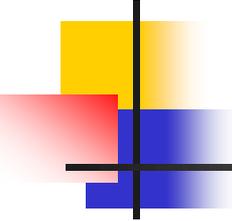
The Jealousy of God

- THE ROOT OF GODLY JEALOUSY
 - **Sam Storms:** “Divine jealousy is a zeal to protect a love relationship or to avenge it when it is broken. The intensity of God's anger at threats to this relationship is directly proportionate to the depths of his love.”
 - **John Frame:** “Jealousy is a passionate zeal to guard the exclusiveness of a marriage relationship, leading to anger against an unfaithful spouse.”



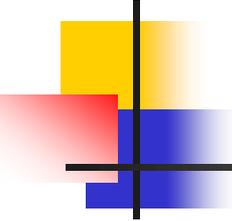
The Jealousy of God

- God's jealousy is depicted with the image of **marriage**
- **Exodus 34:14-15:** “for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God, otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the harlot with their gods and sacrifice to their gods.”

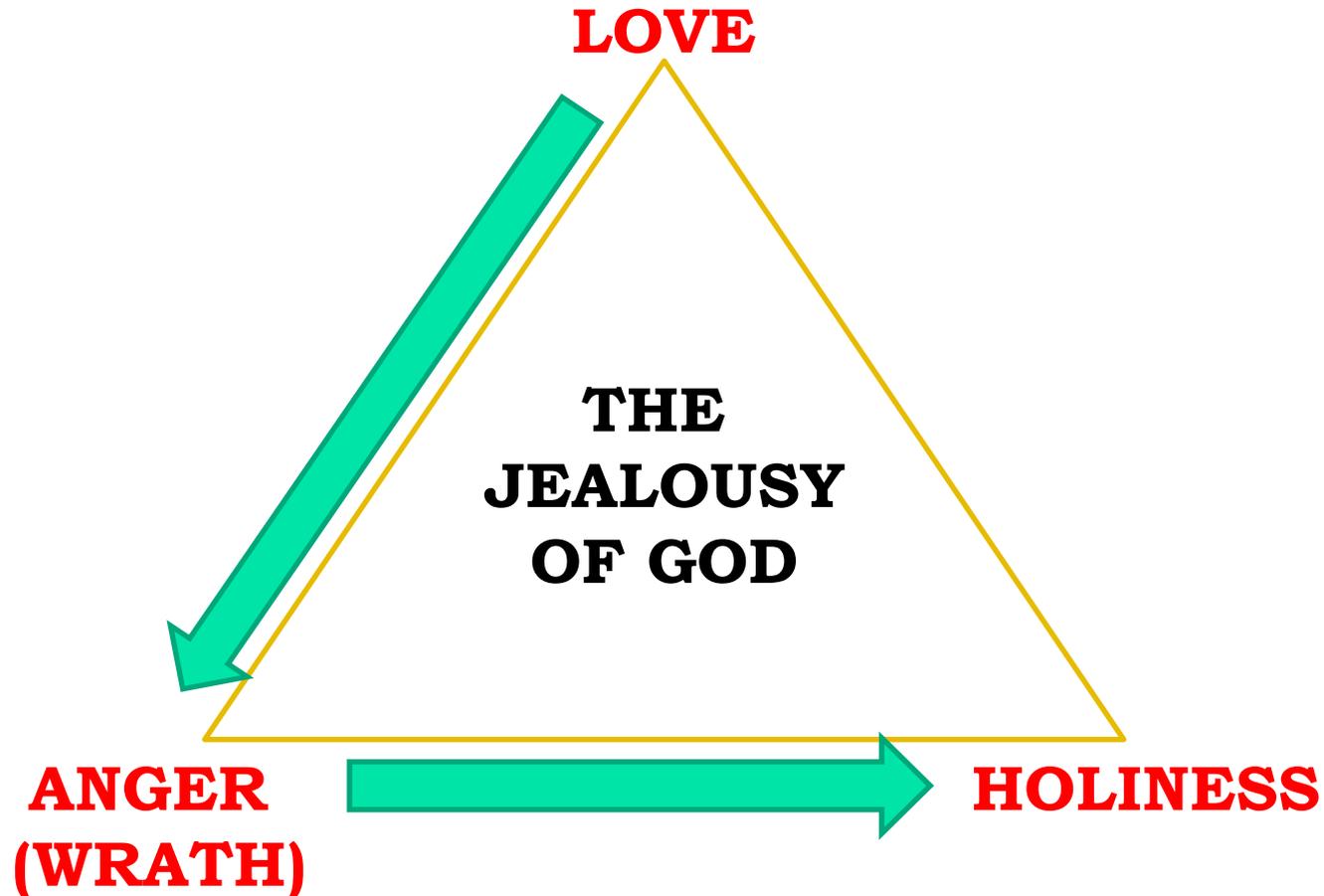


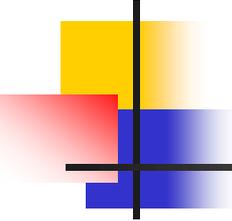
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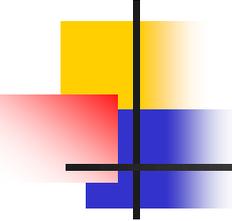
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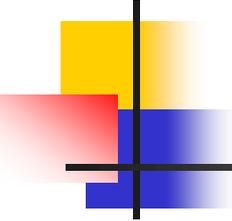
The Jealousy of God

- **Joshua 24:19:** “He is a holy God. He is a jealous God.”
- **Ezekiel 39:25** God says, “I will be jealous for My holy name.”
- **2 Corinthians 11:2:** “for I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as a pure virgin.*”



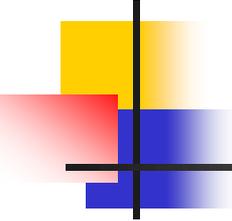
The Jealousy of God

C.S. Lewis: “You asked for a loving God: you have one...not a senile benevolence that drowsily wishes you to be happy in your own way, not the cold philanthropy of conscientious magistrate...but the consuming fire Himself, the Love that made the worlds, persistent as the artist’s love for his work...provident and venerable as a father’s love for a child, jealous, inexorable, exacting as love between the sexes. The Church is the Lord’s bride whom He so loves that in her no spot or wrinkle is endurable.

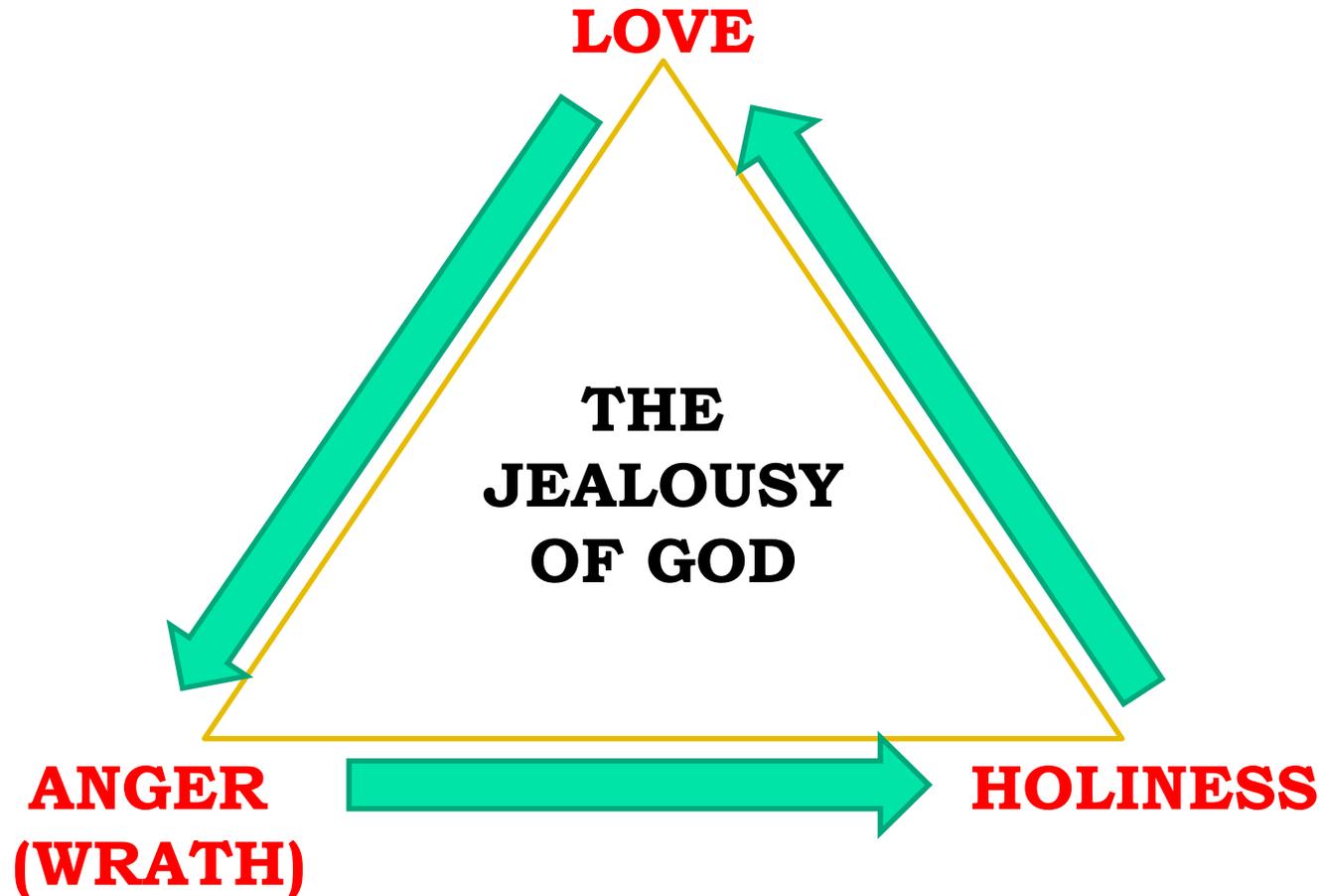


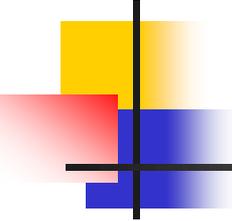
The Jealousy of God

“Love in its own nature demands the perfecting of the beloved...When we fall in love with a woman, do we cease to care whether she is fair or foul? Do we not first begin to care? Love may, indeed, love the beloved when her beauty is lost: but not because it is lost. Love may forgive all infirmities: but Love cannot cease to will their removal. Love is more sensitive than hatred itself to every blemish in the beloved... Of all powers he forgives most, but he condones least: he is pleased with little, but demands all.”



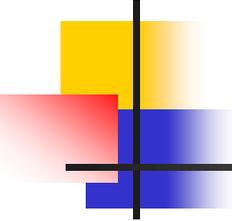
The Jealousy of God





Application

- The Love and Jealousy of God should cause us to examine our love and jealousy for others



Application

- The Love and Jealousy of God should be the motivation of our obedience
 - **Exodus 20:4-6:** “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.⁵ You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.”