

## Nahum: A Jealous God

↪ **Nahum 1:1-2, a jealous God?** Lots of people of have a problem with this. Have you ever considered jealousy to be a positive trait?

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**1. God is jealous, but jealousy in our minds is negative because it's defined from our fallen human perspective.**

✓ The dictionary defines it as "feeling of resentment because of another's success." Othello = "The green-eyed monster." Self-love is the usual foundation for human jealousy. Defining jealousy from human practice, how could we at all feel comfortable with God being jealous?

**2. God is jealous, but not the way we are.**

✓ Nothing about us is entirely right and nothing about Him is at all wrong. The jealousy of God is perfect. The factors that poison human jealousy: insecurity, suspicion, selfishness. These have no effect on God at all.

**3. God is jealous, and we would do well to understand that about Him, Exodus 20:3; Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24.**

✓ God is jealous in the same way that a husband would be properly jealous towards his wife who's cheating on him. God is wounded when He loves us with an unending, intense, sacrificial love, and then we treat Him as though He's not enough to make us happy.

✓ When we look to other people and things to meet our needs rather than trust His all-sufficiency, He's got a problem with that. Our God, whose name is Jealous, is a consuming fire, when we reject His love and run to something else; it burns Him. But this is what we do and have always done, Deuteronomy 32:16.

**4. God is jealous, but it is unlike human jealousy just as much as His love is not like human love.**

✓ He's calling us into an exclusive relationship with Himself, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:2.

**The early church wasn't persecuted for worshipping Jesus; they were persecuted for worshipping and loving Jesus exclusively.**

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