

EXIT THE CIRCLES OF JEALOUSY – GALATIANS 5:19-21

SERIES: *RESILIENCE IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER*

¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. *Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)*

1. BEING GREEN REALLY ISN'T EASY!

¹ Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? *1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)*

- **Envy** – appears subtle, it is the attitude of the person who resents everyone else who has what they don't have. It rejoices over someone's misfortune.
- **Jealousy** – refers to having something and living in fear of losing it. It is always on the lookout for a rival. Jealousy is cruel and coarse, not subtle. Jealousy in the Bible, literally means to boil within.

2. THE CIRCLES JEALOUSY TRAVELS IN

A. Materialism

¹² Isaac sowed crops in that land, and that year he harvested a hundred times as much as he had sown, because the LORD blessed him. ¹³ He continued to prosper and became a very rich man. ¹⁴ Because he had many herds of sheep and cattle and many servants, the Philistines were jealous of him. *Genesis 26:12-14 (TEV)*

B. The Powerful

¹⁻² Korah son of Izhar, from the Levite clan of Kohath, rebelled against the leadership of Moses. He was joined by three members of the tribe of Reuben—Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—and by 250 other Israelites, well-known leaders chosen by the community. ³ They assembled before Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! All the members of the community belong to the LORD, and the LORD is with all of us. Why, then, Moses, do you set yourself above the LORD'S community?" *Numbers 16:1-3 (TEV)*

⁵⁹ They kept on stoning Stephen as he called out to the Lord, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰ He knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord! Do not remember this sin against them!" He said this and died. *Acts 7:59-60 (TEV)* ¹ And Saul approved of his murder. That very day the church in Jerusalem began to suffer cruel persecution. All the believers, except the apostles, were scattered throughout the provinces of Judea and Samaria. *Acts 7:59-60, 8:1 (TEV)*

C. Performance

⁷ As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." ⁸ Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" ⁹ And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

1 Samuel 18:7-9 (NIV)

D. Professional

¹⁵ Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; *Philippians 1:15 (NASB)*

E. Personal

²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends." *Luke 15:28-29 (ESV)*

3. TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF JEALOUSY

A. Jealousy Destroys Others

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. *Genesis 4:8 (ESV)*

B. Jealousy Destroys the Jealous

²⁴ And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces. *Daniel 6:24 (ESV)*

4. CONFRONTING THE STRONGHOLD OF JEALOUSY

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. *Galatians 5:25-26 (ESV)*

A. Renounce jealousy as sin

B. Pray for the one you are jealous of

C. Recall and reaffirm God's goodness to you

D. Rekindle God's love in your heart