

Are You Zealous?

Some times we are when we shouldn't
and we're not when we should.

Christians Told To Be Zealous

- Revelation 3:19 *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent."*
- What does it mean to be zealous?
- Most of us don't want to be thought of as zealots for a cause, except some may consider being a zealot for God.
- But usually it has a negative connotation.
- We might think that being zealous is to behave in an overtly emotional manner.
- Let us try to understand zeal and how to apply it to ourselves as God commands.

What Is Zeal?

- The same Greek word is translated as both Zealous and Jealous, but in English they have different connotations.
- In a positive sense:
 - Intense positive interest in something, *zeal, ardor*, marked by a sense of dedication (BDAG)
- In a negative sense:
 - Intense negative feelings over another's achievements or success, *jealousy, envy* (BDAG)
- In my words:
 - Biblical zeal is an intense interest or feeling about someone or something. It is good if directed properly and bad if not.
 - Zeal must be properly directed or these intense feelings may direct us.
 - Proverb 28:26 "*He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.*"

Zeal Without Proper Direction

- Proverb 14:30 *"A tranquil heart is life to the body, But passion is rottenness to the bones."*
- 2 Samuel 21:2 *"So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them (now the Gibeonites were not of the sons of Israel but of the remnant of the Amorites, and the sons of Israel made a covenant with them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the sons of Israel and Judah)."*
- Acts 22:3-4 *"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,"*
- Romans 10:1-3 *"Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accord with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God."*

Be Zealous For Good Works

- Titus 2:11-14 *" For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. "*

Be Zealous For The Saints

- Colossians 4:12-13 *"Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis."*
- 2 Corinthians 9:2 *"for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority."*

Be Zealous To Repent

- Revelation 3:19 *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent."*
- 2 Corinthians 7:11 *"For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."*