

# Christian Parents and Christian Kids – Family Series 2026

## #1 - A Godly Jealousy – 2 Cor 11:1-4

**Introduction** – Godly jealousy drives an apostle to do everything he can to bring the churches all the way down the aisle to Christ. Godly jealousy drives parents to see their children all the way to faithfulness as adults walking with Jesus. Godly jealousy drives a father or a mother to sacrifice just about anything to see to it that their children follow them as they follow their Lord. Godly jealousy drives the session of this church and this pastor to constantly return to teachings on Christian parents and Christian kids. So here we go.

**Consider our Passage** – Paul is about to embarrass himself with boasting to prove how much he is invested in the church at Corinth and all the churches he has served (v1 – he will give this foolish boasting in vv21ff). He cares about them far more than any of the false-apostles he has been writing against. The reason is that he has a godly jealousy in the same way a father has a godly jealousy for his daughter to protect her until she is joined to another man in holy matrimony (v2 – think, “Cleaning this Gun, C’mon in Boy...”). But he fears for the church, that she, like Eve, will fall for the craftiness of the serpent and be corrupted from a pure walk with Christ (v3, see also v14f). If they are not careful, they will put up with a different gospel (v4).

**Godly Jealousy** – Paul compares this kind of jealousy to that of a father for his daughter and every father here should check himself. Of course, for his sons, but especially for his daughters. This kind of jealousy is godly, for God’s name is Jealous (Ex 34:14). This kind of jealousy is a fighting kind, ready for confrontation, but confrontation that must be filled with wisdom, affection, fatherly and motherly love, encouragement, patience, and faith in a God bigger than any circumstance your kids get themselves into. It is a jealousy that is not driven by your own reputation, your own calendar, or your own personal goals. It is driven by the goal and responsibility you are to have for your children (Eph 6:4). This kind of jealousy hurts the one who is jealous (John 3:16f).

**Satanic Subtleties** – The Garden was full of “yes”s with just one “no.” And yet, it was just at that point where the crafty serpent attacked. “Did God really say...?” The devil doesn’t show up in a red suit with horns and a pitchfork. He is very subtle, but he is a liar and the father of lies. When Jesus was tempted by the devil, one of the temptations was the devil offering all the kingdoms of men and their glory (Matt 4:8). Jesus was tempted to become a Satan-worshipper, not with pentagrams and severed goat heads, but with the glory of the nations of the world. He could have it all – and no cross. The devil was offering something Jesus wanted but by unlawful means. But Jesus came not just to get the stuff – He came to bind the strongman, to conquer the devil, to free the captives, to defeat death – all through His death on the cross.

Paul says Satan looks like the opposite of what he actually is. He comes in the likeness of an angel of light (v14), appearing to have greater enlightenment into the ways to fulfill your desires. His emissaries are the same (v15). He is also a self-righteous accuser. In Paul’s picture, he is luring the daughter away from her father with lies, half-truths, accusations, anything to keep her from getting to her appointed destination. He will accuse God of being stingy. He will accuse the parents of the same towards you. He will accuse your parents of being imperfect and so not as trustworthy as him. He will accuse you of your own hypocrisy. He will do anything to get you off-balance and turning toward him as the easier, more respectable, more desirous, more pleasant way.

**To Christian Parents** – Having a godly jealousy for your children, all the way through their teen years and into adulthood, requires parenting “in the promises” of God. That is your only basis to jealously demand from God. We are children of Abraham if we have the faith of Abraham (Gal 3:29) and therefore we raise children according to His promises (Gen 17:9, Psalm 102:28). This also requires the following issues of priority:

**Your Loyalty to the Lord** – You cannot export what you do not have. Are you “all in” with Jesus Christ (Luke 14:25-27, Phil 3:12-14)? Oftentimes, by the time we have teenagers (and multiple children) we have lost our “first love” and there needs to be a true heart-revival in us. Oftentimes, that is exactly why the Lord gives us teenagers and teenage issues. It’s not for the teenager; it’s for us.

**Loyalty of Mom and Dad** – Teenagers battle with insecurity in new and weird ways. That battle is immensely lessened when Mom and Dad have a great relationship. Remember: your marriage is constantly preaching/presenting the gospel to your kids. What does it mean that Christ loves the church? What does it mean that the church gladly responds and submits to Christ? You cannot overestimate the power a great marriage has for your kids. Investing in your marriage honestly and before the Lord is the first and best way to minister to your children.

**To Christian Kids** – The greatest challenge facing this next generation of teens in the American church is not persecution from the world, but seduction by the world. This is Satan’s M.O. In fact, I believe that a central reason why the church today has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.

**The Seduction of Eve (the Church)** – Paul is likening the temptation of Eve to the whole church. That seduction was that she listened to the serpent and then she “*saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise*” (Gen 3:6). This is what John is pointing to when he writes to disciples “*do not love the world or the things of the world*” (1 John 2:15-16). He says that this is “*the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life*” corresponding exactly to what Eve perceived. But if your parents and your pastors want to present you spotless as they disciple you, and you are sincerely a believer in Jesus, then it follows that you want to be presented just that way as well.

**Lust of the Flesh** – Temptations can come from within. As we grow, many new desires grow, ambitions, opportunities, relationships, and sexual pleasure. As teenagers, just like Eve, you need to hear from the Lord, “no, not now, later” for many of those desires, and now, in our fallen state, we need to hear, “no, never” and mortify the enemy within (1 Pet 2:11).

**Lust of the Eyes** – Temptations come from outside ourselves as well. David *saw* Bathsheba and the trouble began. Notice that Eve’s temptation was that “*it was pleasant to the eyes*” and it really was. But again, either the Lord says, “not for you, not now, later” and you obey, or He says, “no, not ever, mortify that.” And beyond sexual temptations, we are constantly barraged by advertisements telling us we won’t be satisfied until we have that thing. When you cannot be content until you have “that,” beware for you have fallen to the lust of the eyes.

**Pride of Life** – This is that tick of self-righteousness, thinking more highly of yourself than you ought, and simply thinking of yourself more than you ought. Pride and self-pity are two sides of the same coin. It is unbridled ambition at whatever expense and not submitted to the Word of God. It is the idea that one doesn’t really need God, doesn’t really need to be grateful to Him, doesn’t really need to acknowledge Him.

All of this is worldliness – that organized system of civilization that is actively hostile to God and alienated from Him. It looks glamorous, trendy, and successful on the outside, but inside it is full of maggots (1 John 2:17). It can be dressed in legalism (Col 2:20-23) or in licentiousness (Gal 5:19-21, Rom 6:1).

**The Simplicity of Christ** – Returning to our text with our parents and all our children of all ages in mind (v3). We are to be jealous for the simplicity of Christ. The message is straightforward. Jesus was the very Son of God who lived a perfect life, took our sin upon Himself, enduring the cross, death, the grave and Hades. He rose from the dead, leaving all of our sins behind and now reigns at God’s right hand over every square inch of creation.

Do you love Jesus Christ (1 Pet 1:8)? His name is on you – that is what your baptism did. What do you make of that (Rom 6:3, Gal 2:20)? Do you know the forgiveness of your sins (1 John 1:9)? This Gospel is a hospitable message and so we say, every week, “Come and welcome to Jesus Christ.” And we mean it – to you – every child of every covenant family. Do not just straggle along with your parents with that glum look. Come. And Welcome. To Jesus.