

# Central Shelby SOWER



"A sower went out  
to sow his seed...  
The seed is the  
word of God."  
--Luke 8:5,11

## THE IMAGE OF JEALOUSY

"...and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy."

-EZEKIEL 18:3

Men, can you imagine how you would feel if your wife had a picture of a boyfriend framed and displayed in the most prominent place in your house, say, in the main hallway? "A boyfriend from her college days?" No – a man she's *presently* dating.

Huh?!

The eighth chapter of Ezekiel is a picture of tragedy. The Lord is readying himself to 'move out' of His house, the temple. But before He does He brings Ezekiel to His house in order to show him why He's moving out. Here is an idol – It's called "the image of jealousy which provokes to jealousy" – directly in front of one of the temple doors. Amazing, right?!

God is a jealous God. He will not tolerate other gods in our lives.

Think with me, now: Does the Lord feel there are other 'lovers' in *my* life? In *your* life? Do we have other attachments, other lovers, that would provoke Him to jealousy? Do we proclaim our love for Him but, really, our love is devoted elsewhere?

Is it money? A person doesn't have to have

much of it (any of it, really) to idolize it (Colossians 3:5).

Is it sports? Some have devoted themselves to having fun and playing games.

Is it television sports? Television dramas? Television comedies? Television thrillers? Television documentaries? Television reality shows? Television— Have we made that flat-panel box an 'image of jealousy'?

Is it Facebook, being mesmerized by it for hours daily?

Is it alcohol? Marijuana?

Is it porn (voyeurism) or some other form of sexual immorality? With many in this world this has become their god.

Have we made fashion our 'image of jealousy,' sacrificing our sense of shame and modesty to it?

On and on the list of images could go. The sheer volume and variety today would probably overwhelm Ezekiel.

God said to Ezekiel, "Do you see what they are doing... to make Me go far away from My sanctuary?" (8:6). The Lord was exasperated and saw possible no other course of action.

Consider this matter seriously and ask yourself: Is the Lord moving out of *my* life because He feels threatened by other lovers?



--Mike Noble