

Hosea: The Husband and the Harlot God Is Better

God's love is a jealous love that protects what is precious to Him...

*Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.
(Exod. 34:14)*

Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband. (Hosea 2:2a)

- **Idolatry** – “Let her remove the adulterous look from her face and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts.” (Hosea 2:2b)

Is there an idol in the heart?

- *Protective when it's threatened?*
- *Angry when it's blocked?*
- *Crushed when it's gone?*

The Husband's temporary protection: expose the lifeless idol – “Otherwise I will strip her naked and make her as bare as on the day she was born; I will make her like a desert, turn her into a parched land, and slay her with thirst.” (Hosea 2:3)

- **Ingratitude** – “Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, “I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.” (Hosea 2:5)

●* **Caution: taking credit for all that you have while giving God a “Grammy nod” of thanks** – “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17)

The Husband's temporary protection: starve the sources to magnify what's best...

*“Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way. She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.’”
(Hosea 2:6-7)*

- **Hypocrisy** – “So now I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers; no one will take her out of my hands. I will stop all her celebrations: her yearly festivals, her New Moons, her Sabbath days – all her appointed feasts...I will punish her for the days she burned incense to the Baals; she decked herself with rings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but me she forgot,’ declares the LORD.” (Hosea 2:10-13)

The Husband's permanent protection: Christ in us...

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. (Gal. 4:6-7)