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## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### Jealous No More! ~ December 12, 2014

*The one most disgusted with humanity's self-love saves us from it.*

[Online Version & Archive](#)

One day a 15-year-old boy named Alex was working the cash register at his local Target store when a girl snapped a photo of him. She shared the photo online with her friends. Somehow like an avalanche of crushing snow triggered by a falling pinecone, a tidal wave of internet interest washed the photo across cyber space. In mere hours Alex from Target became an internet sensation. For example, so many girls started appearing at his register, his manager had to move him to a different part of the store.

But all the fame and fawning—as innocent as it was—aroused evil attention. Alex was attacked with cyber bullying. His personal information was maliciously posted online. And he received death threats. Needless to say, law enforcement was called in to protect him and his family, and his folks had to hire an attorney.

Why the hatred for a kid who wasn't seeking the attention that was heaped on him? The Bible cuts through all the psychological analysis to expose the heart of the problem: the human heart poisoned with the sin of self-love. Yes, this is the same self-love that tempts us to gossip about someone. Think about it: we gossip about others because it momentarily makes us feel better, as we elevate ourselves over the person we look down upon. It's a sick attempt to find personal "value" at the expense of devaluing another by some juicy gossip.

Left unchecked, this self-love can mutate into a jealousy that declares: "If I can't have what he has, then I'll destroy it so he can't have it either!" Isn't his why law enforcement and attorneys had to step in to protect Alex and family?

No one is more disgusted with how Alex was bullied than God. This is not how he created humans to behave. But instead of washing his hands of us, he graciously opened his hand by sending his eternal Son to come down to earth to be the perfect human and our merciful Savior. In a display of unbridled self-love, those jealous of Jesus set out to destroy him. Yet, Jesus not only willingly endured this abuse, he used their myopic manipulations to forgive the whole world by his perfect sacrifice at the cross. How we treasure this grace: the unearned love that Jesus freely has for everyone.

We who know Christ's forgiving grace are equipped to recognize the self-love that curses the human race, and that also menaces with our own searching for value and self-esteem. Which is why we want to thank Jesus for forgiving our sins, by striving to live selflessly like

him, as the Apostle Paul teaches: “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you... Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:3&10).

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[Parents, Take Note: Here's What 'Alex from Target' Can Teach You...](#)@ Yahoo.com

[Alex From Target' Reveals The Dark Side Of His Newfound Fame](#)@ businessinsider.com

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

