

ZEAL is that pure and heavenly flame
The fire of love supplies;
While that which often bears the name
Is *self* in a disguise.

- 2 True zeal is merciful and mild,
Can pity and forbear;
The false is headstrong, fierce, and wild,
And breathes revenge and war.
- 3 Zeal has attained its highest aim,
Its end is satisfied,
If sinners love the Saviour's name,
Nor seeks it aught beside.
- 4 But self, however well-employed,
Has its own ends in view,
And says, as boasting Jehu cried,
'Come, see what I can do.'
- 5 Self may its poor reward obtain,
And be applauded here;
But zeal the best applause shall gain,
When Jesus shall appear.
- 6 Dear Lord, the idol 'self' dethrone,
And from our hearts remove;
And let no zeal by us be shown,
But that which springs from love.

John Newton, 1725-1807