

Envy 8 Deadly Sins

Our desire for what others have can seem like a harmless thought, but it has led many to do things that they would never have imagined. For many it is the “silent sin” that stays hidden behind the mask of smiles. Its result is always against the desire for God in our lives.

Key Verse: 1 Peter 2:1- 3, “Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”

“Green With Envy” and “The Green-Eyed Monster”

Proverbs References

Proverbs 3:31, “Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways.”

Proverbs 23:17, “Do not let your heart envy sinners, but live in the fear of the LORD always.”

Definitions

Old Testament: Qana': verb meaning to be envious or jealous. Strong emotion in which there is a desire of an aspect or possession of another.

- Compared to Qanna' meaning God's jealousy or zeal. God is a jealous God who does not tolerate the worship of other gods (Exodus 20:5). It is a passion for His position. The scriptures even describe His name as Jealous in Exodus 34:14.
- Differences between Envy and Jealousy

New Testament: Phthonos: To be envious

Examples

- Cain and Abel, Genesis 4:4-8
- Joseph and his brothers, Genesis 37:3-4

Envy in Action

The Enemy Within” Kris Lundgaard breakdown of James 1:14-15

- Starts with a thought (mind)
- Entices (Affection)
- Conceiving (Will)
- Gives Birth (Actions, Words)
- Death (Enslavement & Separation from God)

Envy's role in the crucifixion of Christ

- Mark 15:9-11, And Pilate answered them saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. But the chief priests stirred up the multitudes to ask him to release Barabbas for them instead.”

How does envy look in our lives?

- Actions: Many current acts of violence have been caused by envy
- Inactions: Refusal to evangelize them or show them grace when they fall or they have a need that we can fill.
- Words: Character Assault, Gossip, Social Media

Is it just admiration or is it envy?

Description of the Characteristics of envy:

Romans 1:28-32, “And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

Envy among God’s people

- Envy between churches
- Envy between ministries
- Preacher: Philippians 1:15

Keeping a proper perspective

Titus 3:3-7 “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Underlines added.

Common themes among each “Deadly Sin”

1. *Focus is on the self (“I”)*
 - *Pride, Lust, Greed, Gluttony, Envy*
2. *The heart is the issue. The heart is where the nature dwells.*

Battle Plan for Combating Envy

1. Start with the basics
 - 1st Commandment: You shall not have any other gods before Me.
 - 10th Commandment: You shall not covet.
2. Be Content
 - Count your blessings.
 - The grass is not always greener on the other side.
 - Pray for yourself and the person that you envy: Pray for their salvation and God’s use of that person for His glory.

3. Understand we serve God Almighty – El Shaddai
 - He has all power and all provision.
 - Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. Matthew 6:33
 - As believers, we all have been given different gifts — none are better or worse than others. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Prayer: Psalm 139:23-24, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”

Conclusion

God alone has the power to identify sin (envy) in our lives, convict us of it, then replace it with grace if we ask His forgiveness. His has provided each of us with more than enough blessings to run our own races set for us, so that we do not stumble and fall focusing on others.