

ENVY



A person might be a faithful child of God, living a morally good life, and yet harbor enough **ENVY** in his or her heart to damn their eternal soul! The envious will miss heaven! Envy is one of the works of the flesh and Paul says, “*...those who practice such things [Gal 5:19-21] will not inherit the kingdom of God.*” – Gal 5:21

WHAT IS ENVY?

Definition: A Discontentful or Resentful longing, aroused by someone else’s possessions, qualities, or good fortune.

Envy is that uncomfortable feeling one experiences over the advances, advantages, or good fortune of another.

Biblical Illustrative Survey of Envy:

- a) Because of envy, Cain slew Abel – I John 3:12
- b) Rachel envied Leah because she was barren: - Genesis 30:1
- c) The Philistines envied Isaac “*for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants.*” – Gen 26:14
- d) Pilate realized that the Jews handed over Jesus because of envy. – Matthew 27:18

NATURE OF ENVY

Envy is Invisible and Thus Deadly!!!

Envy is a Weed that Grows in ALL Soils and Climates!

Envy is likened to cancer of the bone – Proverbs 14:30

Envy is earthly, it is sensual, and demonic – James 3:14-15

Envy is SO Insidious, that the righteous can become
envious of evil doers! – Psalm 37:1 / Psalm 73:3

ENVY AT WORK IN THE CHURCH...

- a) Christians can become envious of one another
 - 1. The one-talent man can become envious of five-talent man.
 - 2. One Christian can become envious because of praise and recognition bestowed upon another
- b) Preachers can become envious of another
 - 1. Another preacher's ministerial success, or souls baptized, or skill-sets of another...
- c) Congregations can become envious of each other
 - 1. A sister church has a larger membership
 - 2. Greater building size
 - 3. Plethora of ministries
 - 4. Joy of others "over there..."

ENVY CAN BE IRONICALLY SUICIDAL / DEADLY

- a) Because of envy, Haman built gallows for Mordecai wherein he himself ended up hanged (Esther 5:10-14 & Esther 7:10)
- b) Daniel's envious persecutors were consumed by the lions instead of Daniel – (Daniel 6:1-24)
- c) Envy slays a simple one (Job 5:2)

GOD'S PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ENVY

- a) We are to put aside envy (I Peter 2:1)
- b) We are not to be envious of one another (Gal 5:26)
- c) We are not to walk in envying (Rom 13:13)

GOD'S REMEDY FOR ENVY

- a) LOVE is the Remedy – I Cor 13:4
- b) Put on Christ – Rom 13:13
- c) Walk in the Spirit – Gal 5:16 / Lust is a lust of the flesh

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON ENVY

“There are many roads to hate, but envy is the shortest route of them all!”

“Because of Envy, after a man makes his mark in the world, someone comes along with an eraser.”

“When people talk about things they can't afford, their list should include pride, envy, and malice.”

“One blessing in being poor, honest, and hardworking is that nobody envies you.”

“Love looks through a telescope, wherein envy looks through a microscope.”

“Envy provides the mud that's thrown at success.”