

## ENVY CONSUMES ITSELF

Prov. 14:30 A sound heart *is* life to the body,

But **envy** *is* rottenness to the bones.

Job 5:2 For wrath kills a foolish man, And **envy** slays a simple one.

- Do you know any people who are envious?
- Do you know what the difference between envy and jealousy?
- Do you know what the difference is between envy and coveting?
- Envy destroys a person from the inside out.
- It is in the character of very few men to honor without envy a friend who has prospered. *Aeschylus*
- Envy is the ulcer of the soul. *Socrates*
- Rust consumes iron and envy consumes itself. Danish Proverb
- Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessings instead of your own. *Harold Coffin*
- Envy thinks not so much as *what am I going to get* but *what are they getting that they do not deserve*.
- For example, I am not envious of Tiger Woods. Do you know why? I know that it is never going to be possible for me to attain his ability in golf.
- Envy always seems to enter our lives through that crack of commonality. You know that area of your life that says *I wish they did not have this because you know it is attainable for you if they do not*. It is not the far away things; it is those up close relationships that we have in the family, in the church, in the workplace where envy tends to show up.
- We tend to become envious with things that are likely for us to possess. *I could have had that promotion or I could have had that position. I could have had those people added to my staff. I could have had that raise*. Not so much that it drives you to the point where you're going to work harder, but now you are so sad over

the situation that you have become unproductive in your own work.

- Do not think more about what could happen in the future if a situation changed—Instead think of being the person in Christ you ought to be right now.
- Envy opposes the creative work of God. It becomes our way of saying, “If you will not gift me and use me in the way that I want God... then away with you God, away with your work.”

Dr. Henry Brant gave me an illustration from back in the 1950's when a General Motors executive had a title of a speech in a meeting entitled *Getting Ahead - Ahead of What?*

Here's what he said: *“Of one thing I am firmly convince, that it is possible for you to be so concerned with what you are going to be in the future, that you fail to be what you ought to be now. And since the future is invariably built piece by piece of many ‘now’s’, what you are now is more important.”*

- The character you have right now will determine the foundation for success in the future.

I tried to think about envy, jealousy, and coveting. What are the differences in these three? And I thought about ‘Dear Santa Clause’ letters.

Have any of you ever written to Santa when you were a child? Have any of you written to Santa *this year*?

Letters to Santa:

**Jealousy** would be like this: *Dear Santa, I had this best friend but now he's best friends with another guy that I know and I do not like it. And Santa, I want my friend back.*

**Coveting** would be like this: *Dear Santa, Last year you gave my friend some really neat toys. I wish I had the toys like you gave him.*

**Envy** is: *Dear Santa, Please do not give my friend good toys this year because I do not want him to have better toys than I have.*

- Coveting desires what your neighbor has. Envy regrets the good of those around them.
- Envy really is a child of pride. It feels we deserve this thing more than others.
- Envy stirs up the heart and the soul. It makes you sick inside.
- Envy in the workplace will keep you from being a productive person because your idea is not so much on *being what you need to be right now*, but it is so troubled inside that others have something you wish they did not have.
- You do not want them to be seen as the one who received credit for that.
- Envy distorts our minds so that we start feeling sad about other's good things and satisfied in the presence of others failures.
- This kind of envy will kill you on the inside as a believer.
- Matthew 27:18, the scripture says, "*For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.*" He was talking about the religious leaders.
- The sin that sent Jesus to the cross was *envy*. The religious leaders did not want him to have a following of people. The religious leaders did not want him to be recognized by the world of that day and receive that recognition.
- Genesis 4, we see the life of two brothers, the first two brothers Cain and Able, envy brought death.
- Joseph, all of his brothers envied the position that he had and it brought huge problems in their family for years to come.
- King Saul was the first king of Israel. Envy toward David and all the people who followed David, drove Saul crazy—literally—and he did not finish well.
- Romans 13:13 states, "*Let us walk properly as in the day not in revelry and drunkenness, not in luteness and lust, not in strife and envy.*"(NKJV)
- 1 Corinthians 3:3 Paul says, "*For you are still carnal or worldly . . .*" (he's talking about believers) "*. . . for there are envy, strife and divisions among you, are you not worldly and behaving like mere men?*"(NKJV)
- 1 Corinthians 13:4, "*Love suffers long and is kind. Love does not envy. Love does not parade itself. Love is not puffed up.*" (NKJV)
- The first questions you ought to ask yourself is *Who do I hate?*
- Love does not envy and if love does not envy, guess what does envy; *Hatred*. It is this hatred that we started with in Proverbs that is *rottenness to the bones*.

James 3:14 But if you have bitter **envy** and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

James 3:16 For where **envy** and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.