

What's envy anyway?

Envy means “a feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or [good fortune]” Citation: © 2015 Google Dictionary

One Bible Passage Regarding Envy

Proverbs 14:30 AMP

A calm and undisturbed mind and heart are the life and health of the body, but envy, jealousy, and wrath are like rotteness of the bones.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Comparing and competing tears us apart; celebrating and congratulating builds us up.

The Curse of Comparing

When you compare your life and situation to someone else, you might choose a person you know is not as fortunate. This tends to feed the pride problem we all face. When you compare your life and situation to someone else, you might choose a person who is much better off than you are. This will lead to envy. Comparing distorts our view of Jesus. We begin to wonder how he can claim to love us when he made someone else better looking or more intelligent. We stop thanking him for the blessings we have and start requiring him to give us what others have. Before we know it envy makes us act as though Jesus owes us; that he essentially works for us. THAT ATTITUDE IS PURE REBELLION AGAINST THE KING OF KINGS. IT IS SIN.

The Blessing of Valuing Each Other

Contentment begins the moment we start thanking Jesus for our blessings no matter what others may or may not have. Contentment grows when we thank Jesus for blessing others no matter how he does it. Contentment sets us free when we are free to celebrate the good things others experience. It fills us with joy when we freely congratulate them for their successes and blessings.

A New Point of View

Advertisers use envy and jealousy to sell cars and smartphones. Sometimes it seems as though everything around us stirs up discontentment and frustration because someone else has something we don't have. We compare our accomplishments, our personalities, our talents, our physical qualities and our possessions to others. We are eaten alive by the envy we nurse deep inside. But Jesus wants to set us free to enjoy the freedom of contentment.

First Steps to Start with

1. Acknowledge your envy.
2. Recognize the cause of your envy.
3. Confess and apologize to Jesus.
4. Thank Jesus for how he created and blesses you.
5. Celebrate the victories and blessings of others – especially those you envy.

6. Keep on keeping on until you're free from comparisons and envy.

Asking for Help

King Jesus, I know you don't owe me anything. I'm sorry for not thanking you for my blessings. Forgive me for comparing myself and my circumstances to others. Please give me the courage and the strength to celebrate others. Set me free from the chains of comparisons and envy that restrain me. Jesus, thank You for hearing my prayers. And for loving me enough to allow me to experience the joy and freedom of contentment. Amen