

Summer of Love Series - ENVY

What is something you don't have but someone else does that you want?

Why do you want it?

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy... 1 Corinthians 13: 4

Here are 4 Questions to help understand why envy can be so destructive.

1. What is envy?

Greek word – zēloō - to burn with zeal - to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger.

In English – the desire to have what others have – gifts, talents, abilities, position, friends, recognition, possessions, popularity...

2. Where does envy come from?

Genesis 3 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.

A leading [Wall Street](#) banker working for [Lehman Brothers](#) in 1927, said this -

"We must shift America from a needs- to a desires-culture. People must be trained to desire, to want new things, even before the old have been entirely consumed. We must shape a new mentality. Man's desires must overshadow his needs." ~Paul Mazur

3. What triggers envy in us?

We have had a long day, a hard day – we are at a low spot in our day – our life. We sit down to unwind – to relax – and bam there it is! We see others and we are like – if only my life were like that. If only I had what they had...

Here's the problem - We compare what we know about ourselves to what we don't really know about them.

4. How do we overcome it or keep it from overcoming us?

1. Celebrate

Celebrate our own accomplishments as well as others.

"Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessing instead of your own." ~ Harold Coffin

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Phil 2:3-4 ESV

Comparing what you have to what others have is a good way to make yourself miserable. ~ Henrick Edberg

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. 2 Corinthians 10:12 NIV

2. Generosity

The opposite of envy is generosity. I think as we look to be generous with our time, our talents, and our material wealth, we will be less concerned about what we don't have and more concerned about what others need. ~ Jennifer Beckstrand

Find something you can give away and give it away.

As the Apostle Paul said:

"...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

3. Contentment

“Develop an abundance mentality.” ~ Henrick Edberg

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 ESV

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 1 Timothy 6:9 ESV

4. Love – don't envy!

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy... 1 Corinthians 13: 4

Experience Today's Message

What am I envious of?

Why am I envious?

What can / will I do about it?