



*Envy Flourishes When One
Covets the Advantages
Of Another*

The Word & Prayer

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Avoiding the spirit of Envy

1 Peter 2:1

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

When we are born again, we become spiritual newborn babies. If we are healthy, we will yearn to grow. How sad it is that some people never grow up. The need for milk is a natural instinct for a baby, and it signals the desire for nourishment that will lead to growth. Once we see our need for God's Word and begin to find nourishment in Christ, our spiritual appetite will increase, and we will start to mature. How strong is your desire for God's Word?

Cain envied the brother Able.

Genesis 4:5

But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard so Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

The Bible does not say why God did not accept Cain's gift. Perhaps Cain's attitude was improper, or perhaps his gift was not up to God's standards.

Proverbs 21:27 says, "The sacrifice of an evil person is detestable, especially when it is offered with wrong motives."

God evaluates both our motives and the quality of what we offer him. When we give to God and others, we should have a joyful heart because of what we are able to give. We should not worry about how much we are giving up, for all things are God's in the first place. Instead, we should joyfully give to God our best in time, money, possessions, and talents.

Some preach Christ from envy and strife.

Philippians 1:15

Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;

Paul had an amazingly selfless attitude. He knew that some were preaching to build their own reputations, taking advantage of his imprisonment to try to make a name for themselves. Regardless of the motives of these preachers, Paul rejoiced that the Good News was being preached.

Some Christians serve for the wrong reasons. Paul wouldn't condone, nor does God excuse, their motives, but we should be glad if God uses their message, regardless of their motives.

Who can stand against Jealousy?

Proverbs 27:4

Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, But who can stand before jealousy?

A friend who has your best interests at heart may have to give you unpleasant advice at times, but you know it is for your own good. An enemy, by contrast, may whisper sweet words and happily send you on your way to ruin.

We tend to hear what we want to hear, even if an enemy is the only one who will say it. A friend's advice, no matter how painful, is much more valuable.

Being filled with envy

Romans 1:29

Being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

Surrender yourself to God, asking him to show you the way out of sin and into the light of his freedom and his love. Prayer, Bible study, and loving support of Christians in a Bible-believing church can help you to gain strength to resist these powerful temptations. If you are already deeply involved in homosexual behavior, seek help from a trustworthy, professional, Christian course

**Those who practice the works of the flesh
shall not
inherit the kingdom of God.**

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

In order for us to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance, we must deal with them decisively. These desires include obvious sins, such as sexual immorality and demonic activities. They also include less obvious sins, such as hostility, jealousy, and selfish ambition. Those who ignore such sins or refuse to deal with them reveal that they have not received the gift of the Spirit that leads to a transformed life.

Out of controversial questions arises envy.

1 Timothy 6:4

He is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,

Lay aside all envy.

1 Peter 2:1-2

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking,

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby:

One characteristic all children share is that they want to grow up—to be like big brother or sister or like their parents. When we are born again, we become spiritual newborn babies.

If we are healthy, we will yearn to grow. How sad it is that some people never grow up. The need for milk is a natural instinct for a baby, and it signals the desire for nourishment that will lead to growth.

Once we see our need for God's Word and begin to find nourishment in Christ, our spiritual appetite will increase, and we will start to mature.



Prayer of deliverance:

Through heaven's door, The Blood of Jesus, I repent of the sin of envy. I denounce and cast out this evil spirit that is influencing my life and disturbing my peace of mind.

In the authority of the name of Jesus Christ. I command this spirit to leave and be cast into utter darkness never to return again.

Right now, I receive my deliverance from this spirit and receive God's peace. I pray in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

New American Standard Bible

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print