

SERMON NOTES

Title: Poison Envy

Text: Gen. 4:1-16; I Cor. 13:4

Topic: Jealousy/Envy

Teacher: Pastor Barry

Time: 11/19/23 File Under: Christian Living



“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy.” I Corinthians 13
“...be content with what you have...” Hebrews 13:5

Envy, that feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by contemplation of another’s desirable possessions or qualities, accompanied by a strong desire to have them for oneself.

“O beware, my lord, of jealousy, it is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on.” –William Shakespeare

Cain slew Able because of **Envy**

“Every time a friend succeeds, I die a little.” - Gore Vidal

The jungle where the “Green-Eyed Monster” lurks is a relatively safe place. You just need to be especially alert on three specific paths

I. THE PATH OF **SUCCESS**

The danger comes when someone is **more successful**.

“Professional jealousy” is when successful professionals are jealous of others who are successful in their **fields**.

II. THE PATH OF THE **SHORT CUT**

Thinking we can get ahead by cutting corners.

Abel knew that if worship was to mean **anything**, it would have to mean **everything**.

With Cain and Abel, the issue wasn’t their sacrifice it was their **heart**.

III. THE PATH OF A **CRUSHED SPIRIT**

Covetousness wants something that someone else has. Envy wants to **take away from others** what I can’t have for myself.

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my toys to break, so the other kids can’t play with them.” Shel Silverstein

Envious people are never truly **grateful**.

Conspicuous consumption: a marketing plan that intentionally roots itself in envy. *“Keep them drooling over bigger and better and more expensive products.”* Thorstein Veblen

The remedy: **LOVE**. You cannot envy a person you love. “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy.” I Corinthians 13

Digging Deeper: (Genesis 4:1-16) God accepts both animal and grain sacrifices (Lev. 6:14-30). Why then do you think God rejects Cain’s sacrifice? Whom did you envy as a child? Why? Did you ever suspect your parents of having “favorites” among your siblings? What was the basis for your suspicion?

For Further Reflection: Where might God be looking on your life with favor?...with disfavor? Are you your brother’s keeper? How so? What kind of “keeping” do you do?