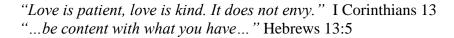
SERMON NOTES

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



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 rjects Cain's sacrifice? Whom did you envy as a child? Why? Did you ever suspect your parents of having "favorites" among you 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?