



Part One: Envy // Mark Clark // October 10, 2021

Envy is an emotion that occurs when another person's success or excellence overshadows your personal well-being based on our comparisons. The sin is rooted in believing that God is not good enough in your own life. Counter this vice with kindness, and taking on the posture of Jesus - desiring the happiness of others instead of their harm. How do we fight it? Envy is countered with kindness. Kindness desires the happiness of another person, not their harm. Kindness is composed not of heroic acts of virtue, but small, daily, regular acts of goodness towards another.

Scripture: Proverbs 23, Matthew 27:18, Matthew 7:22, Romans 1, Galatians 5:21, James 4:2, 1 Corinthians 3, 1 Corinthians 13, Psalm 37.

Bottom Line: Jesus loves to see people get more than they deserve.

Getting Started:

1. What is the first thing you think of when you think of envy?
2. What were you envious of as a kid (or common things that children are jealous of that may seem silly now as an adult)? What are common things someone is envious of as a kid, teenager, adult, senior, etc.?

Jumping In:

3. If you were to have coffee with your younger self, what are the things in your current life you would be excited to share about? What are some things you are surprised by?
4. Why do you think we're so quick to fall into the comparison trap with our friends, family, coworkers, and even neighbours?

Discuss:

5. What does the Bible say about our identity? "A human being is a creature of God with a nature designed by God to consciously display God's greatness and his beauty and his worth." (John Piper) Select and discuss a few of the following passages. Are you living with this perspective?

- a. Genesis 1:27 (We are created in the image of God.)
 - b. John 1:12, Galatians 3:26 (We are adopted as children of God.)
 - c. Romans 6:23, John 3:16 (Jesus, the Son of God has given us true life.)
 - d. Isaiah 40:31 (Hope and find strength in the Lord.)
 - e. Isaiah 43:7-11, 1 Corinthians 10:31 (We display his greatness.)
6. Read Philippians 2:5-11. Jesus was equal with God but “emptied himself” and became vulnerable as he lived in obedience, even to the point of death. What would it look like for you to take on this same posture - to serve others and prioritize them above your success, your name or your significance?
7. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-9. How would you describe the relationship between David and Saul based on these verses? How should Saul have felt about David's success?
- a. Imagine you are in Saul's place. How would you have felt during the celebration of David?
 - b. Share a time when you've been in a similar situation. How did you handle the feelings of jealousy?
 - c. Re-read verse 9. Why does jealousy tend to make us fixated on the other person and/or become consumed with their wins rather than our own?
8. In the sermon we heard, “envy is sinful because we believe the other person's happiness is a sign that they are loved and accepted by God more than you.” Read John 13:34 and Philippians 2:3. How can we practically allow the love of Jesus and the virtue of kindness to replace envy in our lives?