



KILLING WHAT'S KILLING YOU PT 1: ENVY/COMPARISON

Like spider webs, we often don't see life's biggest problems coming until we're tangled up in them. We want to avoid the webs, but what we really need is to kill the spider—or get to the roots and true causes of our issues. Envy is a feeling of discontent or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck. Our sinful nature urges us to compare ourselves to others, taking our eyes off of who God made us to be and what he wants us to do—but we have no obligation to keep dealing with these “webs.”

Big Idea: Comparison tries to kill what God wants to heal.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have comparison and envy tripped you up in your life?
2. Has social media or something else caused comparison and envy to increase in your life? If so, explain.
3. Did those pursuits provide the lasting internal peace, joy, and satisfaction that you had hoped for? Why or why not?
4. Read Romans 8:12-13 and 2 Corinthians 10:12. What do these verses teach us about the “things” that try to “kill” us? What do these verses say about comparison?
5. When we get a sense of value through comparison, we either feel superior about ourselves or inferior to others. In what ways have you experienced this? How has this diminished your understanding of how God sees you?
6. Read John 20:1-4, 20:8, 21:7, 21:20-22, and Hebrews 12:1-2. While the Bible teaches a godly response to envy and comparison, there are plenty of examples of Jesus' followers who struggled in this area. Even though they knew Jesus, Peter and John constantly gave in to the urge to compete for first place with Jesus. How have you fallen into this same trap?
7. In what ways do you relate to Peter and John's competition motivated by comparison?
8. Whose opinion of you matters most?
9. What are some practical ways to begin killing comparison and envy in your life to increase your focus on Jesus?
10. What is God saying to you through his word this week? How and when will you respond?

