

A) SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

How To Be Good At Goodwill
Proverbs 14:30; 23:17,18; 27:4

Slide 2:

Proverbs 14:30 (ESV)

30 A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh,
but envy makes the bones rot.

Proverbs 23:17–18 (ESV)

17 Let not your heart envy sinners,
but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day.

18 Surely there is a future,
and your hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 27:4 (ESV)

4 Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming,
but who can stand before jealousy?

Slide 3:

Envy:

I. What is it? (Diagnosis)

II. What does it show us? (Danger)

III. How do we heal it? (Drug)

Slide 4:

Hebrew root word = qana (kawnaw)

Could be jealousy, passion, envy, zealous

1) To look closely at

2) To look with malicious intent

Slide 5:

"Envy is sorrow at another's good."

Thomas Aquinas

Slide 6:

Envy kills us from the inside out

It can't be satisfied....ever

Slide 8:

Adam and Eve

When Paradise itself was not enough

Slide 9:

In the end Envy is saying the worst thing of all: that God Himself isn't enough

Slide 10:

"Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise. The longings which arise in us when we first fall in love, or first think of some foreign country, or first take up some subject that excites us, are longings which no marriage, no travel, no learning,

can really satisfy. I am not now speaking of what would be ordinarily called unsuccessful marriages, or holidays, or learned careers. I am speaking of the best possible ones. There was something we grasped at, in that first moment of longing, which just fades away in the reality. I think everyone knows what I mean. The wife may be a good wife, and the hotels and scenery may have been excellent, and chemistry may be a very interesting job: but something has evaded us.

Slide 11:

Responses to the Something Evading Us:

- 1) Immature ("What, me? Unhappy?")
- 2) Misplaced Anger ("This can be fixed")
- 3) Sensible Man ("Grow up")
- 4) Envy ("They have it. I want it too!")

Slide 12:

Christian Response (and healing) for Something Evading Us:

"Let not your heart envy sinners,
but (1) continue in the fear of the LORD all the day.
(2) Surely there is a future,
and your hope will not be cut off."

Slide 13:

- A) Bring it to God in worship
- B) Move it forward to eternity

Slide 14:

Psalm 73:22–25 (ESV)

I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.
Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

Slide 15:

Psalm 37:4 (ESV)

Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1) Once again, have a few in your group try to explain wisdom. How is it different than moral truth? How is wisdom like playing an instrument beautifully, or painting a mural beautifully, or carving a statue beautifully?
- 2) What is envy? How is it different from jealousy?

(Most commentators say that jealousy is a desire for what is rightfully yours, and envy is a desire for something that is not yours, and you begrudge the one who has what you want) Does this sound correct? So is God jealous or envious?

3) Flesh out the two degrees of Envy:

- a) Desire for something not yours
 - b) Resentment toward the one who has it
- Have you experienced these?

4) So...what is the big deal? Is this sin as bad as murder or adultery or lying and cheating? Envy is inward life...not outward action, right?

- a) What happens to your inside soul when you are envious?
- b) What are you communicating to your God in your envy?

5) How do you handle the disappointment of life. Doesn't it always seem as if we are chasing SOMETHING that we never really experience? How do you normally try to heal yourself from the supposed lies of the universe that we will finally be fully happy and content "just around the corner.?"

- 1) Immaturity. (I will get there. I am not in a position now to judge that because I haven't got to the place I want to be)
- 2) Misplaced Anger. (The systems and some people are breaking it for others. I need to be more involved)
- 3) Sensible Person (There is not SOMETHING, so let's all grow up)
- 4) Envy (Some have IT. I want what they have found, and I resent that they have it)

Are there other responses? Depression? (It's too hard) Resolve and Commitment? (I WILL do it!)

6) What is the Christian response to not getting SOMETHING here on earth?

- a) Bring it to God (Holy Awe)
- b) Move it forward (What is broken here, will be redeemed there)

7) How does Envy point to a misplaced love?

The way to heal a misplaced love is not to tell your heart to "stop it!" but to give your heart a greater love to love.

How does the cross do that for us?

8) Prayer and praise