

Relationships 3.0

Love Does Not Envy

I Corinthians 13:4 “Love does not envy”

What is envy ?

To boil when another is blessed.

To weep when another wins.

To resent what someone has and to want it for myself.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 NLT Then I observed that most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

The Damaging Effects of Envy

It sours my relationships.

James 3:14-16 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. **15** Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. **16** For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

It sucks joy out of my life.

Proverbs 14:30 A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

It poisons my ability to enjoy what I have.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 NLT Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

It destroys my trust in God.

Envy is resenting God's goodness to others and ignoring God's goodness to me.

Eliminating Envy

Learn how to double my joys and to diminish my sorrows.

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.

Feed on contentment not resentment.

Philippians 4:12-13 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **I have learned the secret of being content** in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.

Psalm 19:23 The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Fuel a fascination for the Lord.

Psalm 37:1-9 Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; **2** for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. **3 Trust in the LORD** and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. **4 Delight yourself in the LORD** and he will give you the desires of your heart. **5 Commit your way to the LORD**; trust in him and he will do this: **6** He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. **7 Be still before the LORD** and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. **8** Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil. **9** For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

Trust in the LORD

Matthew 20:15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

Delight in the LORD

Commit my way to the LORD

Be still before the LORD

Psalm 73:21-26 When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, **22** I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. **23** Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. **24** You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. **25** Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. **26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Focus on my future possessions.

Proverbs 23:17-19 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. **18** There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. **19** Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.

Colossians 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Additional Study

Monday I Peter 2:1-3, Isaiah 64:4

Tuesday Psalm 73

Wednesday I John 2:15-17

Thursday Titus 3:2-11

Friday Matthew 20:1-16