

Love Life Ministry

Touching People with the Healing Power of God's Love[©]



Do Not Envy!

By Homer L. Crothers

God's word has many references to envy. Paul, Peter, and James wrote about the dangers of envy. Envy is defined as "A feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by and in conjunction with desire for the possessions or qualities of another." Envy entered mankind when Eve listened to Satan regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and saw that the fruit was good for food and pleasant to the eyes. She took of its fruit and ate, and also gave the fruit to her husband, Adam, and he ate. They ate what was not theirs to have.

So, how do we not envy what someone else has? Telling someone not to envy is to set a law not to envy. Such a law simply does not work for keeping laws is also a weakness of mankind.

Instead, the way to escape any temptation is to focus our attention on Jesus and His love for us. Paul tells us that *love does not envy*. How does one overcome envy with love? When we see something that we would like to have, rather than focusing on how to get it, we would do better by complimenting the person on what they have telling them how beautiful it is or how well they did in creating it.

In Peter's discussion on showing sincere love to the brethren, he points out that born again believers are too *lay aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking*. Again, love is the foundation for overcoming envy not trying to keep a law.

James tells us that overcoming envy is practiced by those who are wise and have understanding. That wisdom and understanding is not pride based. Rather, it is in meekness of wisdom. Such meekness of wisdom is a guard against speaking about Christ out of envy which Paul warned about in Philippians 1:15.

Eliphaz tells Job that *envy slaps a simple one*.

For our time, the following scriptures apply to our political and social climate, Proverbs 24:1 *do not envy the wicked, do not desire their company* and Psalm 37:1 *do not be envious of those who do wrong*.

Genesis 3:6, 1 Corinthians 13:4, 1 Peter 2:1, James 3:16, Job 5:2

I speak blessings over you that touch you with the healing power of God's love!

Shalom!!

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