

“Killing Envy”

Sermon Notes

□ **Envy is an unknown cause of much of our relational woe,
and the gospel is the unparalleled cure**

1. _____ the _____ of envy (3:31; 14:30; 23:17;
24:1; 27:4)

2. _____ the _____ of envy (6:34; 24:19; Romans 1:29-
30; Philippians 1:15; Genesis 30:1; Samuel 18:6-9)

3. _____ the _____ for envy (Matthew 27:18; Mark
15:10; Titus 3:3-6; 1 Peter 2:1-5; Galatians 5:19-26; 1 Corinthians 13:4)

Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of March 5th - 11th

1. Read Proverbs 14:30. In this verse, physical health (life to the flesh) is paired with spiritual well-being (tranquil heart), while envy is paired with physical illness (the bones rot).

- a. What does this say about the connection between physical and spiritual sickness?
- b. What does this say about the nature of envy?
- c. What does this say about the consequences of envy?
- d. What is the alternative to envy? (See Romans 12:15)

2. In Nahum 1:2, the Lord is described as jealous, and this is portrayed as a positive emotion in 2 Corinthians 11:2.

- a. Is there a difference between jealousy and envy? If so, what is it?
- b. Do you find that you compare what you have with what others have? Why?
- c. Who are you really angry with when others have something that you desire? (See Genesis 4:5) Please explain your answer.
- d. Do followers of Jesus sometimes fall into the temptation of comparing themselves with others? (See John 21:20-22). Why or why not?

3. See 1 Samuel 18:6-11 for an example of envy in action.

- a. Notice the mention of Saul eyeing David in verse 9. Have you heard of the evil eye? Does envy have an effect on your perception? Please explain your answer.
- b. Notice the demonic influence in verses 10-11. Could envy make you susceptible to demonic influence? Why or why not?
- c. Was the evil spirit the cause of Saul's envy, or a consequence? (See Mark 7:21). Please explain.
- d. Do envious people start to think they know something that others don't recognize? If so, how does this affect their behavior?
- e. Why is the behavior of someone who is envious so secretive?

- f. Do you think that secret negative emotions can fuel irrational behavior as exhibited in verse 10? (See James 3:16). Why or why not?
- g. Do you think that such emotions might underlie some of what is currently referred to as mental illness? Please explain your answer.

4. What is the cure for envy? (See 1 Peter 2:1-3; Matthew 22:36-39)

5. Since pride is not simply one of the seven deadly sins, but rather it is the soil in which the seeds of the other six grow: how does pride give rise to envy?