

**THEME: SEVEN DEADLY PASSIONS – ENVY**

**TOPIC: WHAT IS ENVY?**

**TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4; GALATIANS 5:26; PROVERBS 14:30; JAMES 3:14-16; ECCLESIASTES 4:4; 1 PETER 2:1-2; EXODUS 20:17; JOB 5:2**

## **INTRODUCTION**

A simple definition of *envy* is “to want what belongs to someone else.” A more thorough description of *envy* is “a resentful, dissatisfied longing for another’s possessions, position, fortune, achievements, or success.” Today we are looking at another one of the “Seven Deadly Passions” – Envy.

- a. The way a childless couple who are desperate for one, view a woman with many may sometimes be with a sense of envy.
- b. The poor look at the rich with their opulence and prosperity and sometimes are filled with envy.
- c. Others are viewed by those who lack as if, “Why should it be them alone”?
- d. The successful are viewed by those who are failing or challenged as if life has not been balanced, but partial.
- e. The favoured are the envy of the disfavoured. Healthy people are often the envy of the person who has been told they have a terminal disease.

## **WHAT IS ENVY?**

- a. Envy makes everything positive look like the most undeserving thing in the eye of those who don’t have it.
- b. Envy will make a man covet what the financially blessed have. It will make a man pursue that kind of blessing even if he doesn’t know precisely what to do.
- c. The envious think that life is comfortable for the wealthy and everything seems to work. They prefer that kind of a life because they see a physical comfort but do not assess the challenges that go with it.
- d. Envy is a universal problem, a desire to have what other people have. Men and women experience envy.
- e. It is a foolish controlling emotion which makes one to momentarily forget all of their achievements and desire what somebody else has.

## **THE ACRONYM OF ENVY IS:**

- **E**gotistical need to be on top.
- **N**eeding what someone else has.
- **V**ying for attention over others.
- **Y**earning for something that is not theirs.

Saul the King was no longer pleased to be King but rather wanted the accolade, adulation and respect given to David. This controlling force made David the target of Saul’s envy.

Having brought down the giant Goliath, defeated the Philistines and brought a great victory to Israel, it resulted in celebration. **1 Samuel 18:7**

The accolade and adulation of the women, the praise of the people of Israel was too much for Saul to endure. He became envious, angry that the attention he used to have has been passed on to David. **1 Samuel 18:8-11**

For Saul and many others who have walked in envy, if it is not bridled it could lead to other sins.

Envy causes you to desire what others have, their traits, their status or ability. It is a by-product of a lack of contentment with who you are.

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. **Hebrews 13:5**

Another word in the Bible closely associated with envy is *covetousness*. To covet is to have an excessive desire to possess what belongs to another. Usually related to tangible items like property, covetousness is an intense craving or selfish desire that threatens the fundamental rights of others. **Exodus 20:17; Joshua 7:21.**

## **CONCLUSION**

The root of envy is a dissatisfied heart. We experience envy when we cannot have what our heart desires. We have not yet learned the secret of contentment (**Philippians 4:10-13**), of delighting ourselves in the Lord. The most effective way to avoid envy is to trust in the Lord and delight in Him: “Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun” (**Psalm 37:3-6**).