

**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 continue our study and understanding of ‘Envy’ as a deadly passion looking at “Why are People Envious and how is it expressed in them”

## WHY ARE PEOPLE ENVIOUS?

Envy is a two-way thing.

Why do we walk with it and why do people express envy towards us?

1. Envy certainly is fuelled by the progress of other people, particularly those who we think we should either be on par with or should have been ahead of. It is a longing for another person’s better fortune and most times, it is actually longing for something above them, desiring to rise above them.
2. It comes from our low self-esteem, our inability to celebrate who God made us to be and what He has given to us.
3. The green eye of envy looks to other people’s garden and the grass is greener there. It is always preferring what other people have.
4. Some in their extremity would want to outdo whatever you do.
5. The envious desire to be what they are not cut out for. ***Philippians 2:3***
6. Once you want other people’s advantage, their life and what they are out to achieve, you have by default rejected your own destiny and regarded the purpose of God for you as being inadequate and not worth pursuing. This is really a self-deception and a lie of the devil because of what the Bible says about your life in ***1 Corinthians 2:9***.
7. To every other people, it is to declare their superiority over your own life and to believe that whatever they have transcends what you could ever have.
8. In reality, the difference between the prosperous and the wealthy may be how they manage their time, the truths they were exposed to and their application of wisdom.
9. With some people, it is only a matter of the recognition of seasons and times. Their time to experience their own blessing has not come but because it has not come does not mean it will not come.
10. Short-sightedness makes people therefore to momentarily prefer somebody else’s destiny.
11. Envy is from the base of the human life, a fleshly part of us that does not think much of ourselves. Rather it think it has less and nothing worth manifesting. ***Romans 13:13, 1 Corinthians 3:3, 1 Corinthians 13:4***.
12. We have seen how envy is the relegation of one’s personal destiny and purpose. However envy is not always about tangible, major things.
13. It is sometimes expressed against the achievement of the other person in mundane things.
14. Envy reveals her own inadequacy, her inability to appreciate the persons we are, the homes of our upbringing, the values we got from there, the talents that are deposited in us by God,

what we possess and things that are waiting to be manifest, to work to cause us to be successful.

### **HOW IS ENVY EXPRESSED?**

1. The envious walk in resentment. They become resentful of other people's progress -their achievement, money, the grounds they have broken, the notoriety they have achieved.
2. Envy causes people to be uneasy in their spirit. Uneasy about somebody else's progress.
3. It is like we referred to earlier, Saul became uneasy at the sight of David's progress and the accolades he got.
4. The envious have a tendency to degrade what other people have achieved. They seem to derive some comfort, confidence and personal peace in making less of what someone else has done, is doing or intends to do.
5. They disconnect from whatever they were not responsible for making happen.
6. We have made a lot of reference to envy as it relates to material progress yet one of the strongest areas that call for extreme expression of human emotion is relationships or love.
7. Envy will make a woman feel that the lady who got the most handsome guy in town did not deserve him. Envy will make a man feel that were he to be around much earlier, the lady who said yes to somebody else would have done so to him.
8. Envious lovers have been the story behind several ancient mythologies or modern romantic novels. Once it controls its victims in the world of romance, it has resulted in attempted murders or actually murder.
9. Envy causes rivalry between friends, siblings, and colleagues. It is the reason people try to outdo each other. Who among us have not felt little at the sight of the great achievements of those we might call our friends, contemporaries etc.
10. Malice evolves where people have not dealt with envy. Unable to manage the success of their friends, contemporaries, spouse or relations, they snap and begin to manifest other sins of the flesh like malice.

### **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 trust in the LORD and do good. Paul taught in Galatians 5:16-26 that, if we walk by the Spirit, live by the Spirit, and stay in step with the Spirit, our lives will bear the fruit of the Spirit: "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other".