
Envy Under the Sun

I. What does the Bible say about envy?

a. Definition

1: "a greedy or prideful longing for something that belongs to another"

2: "spite or resentment toward the success or possessions of another"

b. Biblical lessons (Gen 30:1; 37:11; Prov 27:4; Rom 1:29)

II. What does Ecclesiastes four say about envy?

a. Envy makes the world go 'round (v. 4)

b. Envy's opposite is not the antidote (v. 5)

c. You must embrace envy's true antidote (v. 6)

1. Fill your hands
2. Fold your hands
3. Open your hands

Digging Deeper:

1. What are some real-life examples from your experience of the truth that "envy makes the world go 'round"?
2. What worldly virtues can envy/jealousy hide behind? Christian virtues?
3. What motivations/desires/hopes make someone willing to pursue their own advancement even if it involves stepping on others to achieve it?
4. David Gibson says that in this fallen world we can "relentlessly pursue the neighbor above us by willingly stepping on the head of the neighbor beneath us." What are some ways that true contentment ("quietness") reshapes our relationships with others?