

DON'T LET ENVY CONTROL YOU

HIGHLIGHTED PROVERBS

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – JULY 14, 2024

SCRIPTURE READING

Book of Proverbs, ESV

14:30 *A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.*

27:4 *Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?*

23:17-18 *Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the Lord all the day. Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.*

24:19-20 *Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.*

28:19 *Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.*

11:25 *Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Who are you tempted to envy, or about what are you jealous?

SERMON RECAP

What is envy?

- Envy is comparison that produces resentment.
- Envy is a signal that desire has become too powerful in your heart.

Four Supernatural Remedies to Envy – How can we fight envy?

1. The gospel shows us how to put off envy.
2. Put on gratitude for what God is already doing in our lives.
 - Some of us need to repent for rejecting joy.
3. God calls us to faithfulness for what he has given us.
 - We should focus on cultivating the things that we have.
4. Through generosity, we reap blessings.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What do these passages say?

1. Read the highlighted proverbs aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passages or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.

- Which of these proverbs resonate most with you?
- Which proverb(s) best describe(s) you?
- Which of these proverbs do you NOT want to emulate, and which ones do you STRIVE to live?
- How would you summarize these proverbs in your own words?

Interpretation: What do these passages mean?

1. Read Psalm 73:1-3 and 73:12-13. What does God suggest about envy through King Asaph?
2. Read Psalm 73:16-19 and 73:25-28. What does King Asaph conclude about envy?
3. Read James 1:16-17. How does envy blind us to the goodness of God, impacting our gratitude?
4. Read Psalm 37:1-6. How is faithfulness to the Lord an antidote to envy?
5. Read Proverbs 11:25. How can generosity cleanse our envy?

Application: How can we apply these passages to our lives?

1. Consider Envy (read Ecclesiastes 1:8)
 - Where might certain desires to see, hear, or feel be crowding God out of your life?
 - What are the healthy comparisons that drive you?
 - What unhealthy comparisons might be getting in your way?
2. Consider the Remedy of THE GOSPEL
 - How does your gospel hope counteract envy?
 - How is your reliance on God alone an envy-buster?
 - How does the gospel (Divine blessing and Divine judgment) illustrate the foolishness of envy?
 - How can our Church Group help you to focus more on gospel living?
3. Consider the Remedy of GRATITUDE
 - What good gifts do you have in your life right now?
 - How are or can you celebrate the good gifts God bestows on you?
 - What thanks can you offer for all that God gives you?
 - How can our Church Group pray with you gratefully for your life?
4. Consider the Remedy of FAITHFULNESS
 - How are you faithfully working for good?
 - How can you cultivate what God gives you for your good and for His glory?
 - How are you faithfully serving others?
 - How can our Church Group encourage your faithfulness?
5. Consider the Remedy of GENEROSITY
 - How are you bringing blessings to others?
 - How would you rate your generosity and your joy with others?
 - How is your prayer life characterized by generosity toward others?
 - How can our Church Group pray for your generosity with self and with others?

LEADER NOTES

ACCESS ADVENTURE WEEK VOLUNTEERS | Access ministry is in need of volunteers to support Adventure Week Camp from July 23-27. Join them in creating an unforgettable camp experience filled with Bible lessons, fieldtrips, and a block party for children, teens and adults with special needs. [Sign up to serve](#) with your Church Group or contact caleb.barnhart@mcleanbible.org for more information.

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE BREAK | Annual Church Group rhythms include a break from Sermon Discussion Guides in August. During this month, please reference [page 37 of the Church Group Leader Manual](#) for a general discussion guide. Weekly Sermon Discussion Guides will resume on September 1.