



Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

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Envy

When we are discontented with our circumstances or possessions, we can envy those of others. God's Word is clear that envy is a sin and can lead to other sins, such as anger, bitterness, and resentment. Envy has also been the root cause of violence and murder (Genesis 4:3-8). At its core, envy shows that we are not satisfied with God's provisions for us. By envying, we say that we know better than God what we should have or what our lives should be like.

Envy and jealous ambition motivated Satan to rebel against God: *"For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High'"* (Isaiah 14:13, 14). God's Word can help us to understand envy and to guard against its effects on our lives.

- Placing Yourself In Proper Perspective To God And Others

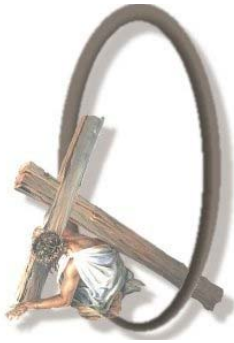
Mark 12:30, 31 ³⁰ *'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.* ³¹ *'And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.'*

When you place your faith in Jesus Christ, He becomes not only your Savior, but also your Lord. Your life no longer belongs to you, but to Christ. A proper perspective in relationship to God is that of total dependence and submission. In Psalm 37:4, 5, King David was inspired to write, *"Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass."* As your Lord, God decides what is best for you. That includes your possessions, the way you look, and the circumstances you face. When you are envious, you no longer have a proper perspective toward God's place in your life.

In addition, God does not want you to be selfish; but rather, to consider the interests of others - this is your proper perspective toward those around you.

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“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3, 4). When you are envious of others, you are placing your desires above theirs.

- Paul’s Perspective: Being Content

1 Timothy 6:6, 7 *“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”*

God desires that you seek His eternal blessing rather than the blessings of earth, and He desires to enable you to be content whatever your circumstances.

The apostle Paul shares the key to dealing with envy: gratitude. *“I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:11-13).* We are to be thankful for our circumstances, our possessions, and the people we encounter. In fact, it is impossible to be both envious and thankful at the same time. If you struggle with envy, God is ready to forgive if you confess your sin and repent.

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