

OVERCOMING THE ENEMY OF ENVY

"While jealousy is the possessive of what is rightfully one's own, envy is the covetousness of that which is belongs to another."

"The state of mind that hates to see other man happy" It asks, "Why should others enjoy what I may not?" Dorothy Sayers

Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground. In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD. And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Genesis 2:2-4

Envy robs us of enjoyment

Cain was furious, and he looked despondent. Genesis 4:5

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." Genesis 4:6-7

"Of the deadly sins, only envy is no fun at all." Joseph Epstein

Envy ruins our relationships

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?" Genesis 4:8-9

For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and every evil practice. James 3:16

Envy resigns us to isolation

Then he said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! So now you are cursed, alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood you have shed. If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth." Genesis 4:10-12

1. We overcome Envy with Jealousy

...and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which says better things than the blood of Abel. Hebrews 12:24

2. We overcome Envy by Praying for those we Envy

"You cannot pray for someone and hate them at the same time." Billy Graham

Reflection Questions:

Where have you seen envy negatively impact your relationship with God and others? What do you need to be reminded of today to overcome the battle with envy?

Scripture from the CSB unless noted.