

Breaking Free From Besetting Sins
Overcoming Envy

I. Introduction

- A. Galatians 5:25-26 (NAS) *²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.*
- B. There are two parts to envy:
 - 1. Resenting God's goodness in _____ lives
 - 2. Overlooking God's goodness in ____ own life
- C. In our society today, envy is _____.

II. Where Does Envy Occur?

- A. _____!
- B. The Bible is full of examples of envy in the family.
 - 1. Cain and Abel
 - 2. Jacob and Esau
 - 3. Leah and Rachel
 - 4. Joseph and his brothers

III. Why Should I Avoid Envy?

- A. Envy causes _____ with others.
 - 1. James 4:1 (NAS) *What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?*
 - 2. Envy destroys _____!
- B. Envy leads to other _____.
 - 1. James 3:16 (NAS) *For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.*
 - 2. Mark 15:10 (NAS) *For he was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.*
 - 3. Nothing causes people to _____ more than envy.
- C. It ruins my _____.
 - 1. Proverbs 14:30 (NAS) *A tranquil heart is life to the body, but passion is rotteness to the bones.*
 - 2. Envy eats you up on the inside! It's _____ - _____!
 - 3. Envy causes _____.

IV. How to Overcome Envy

- A. Don't _____ yourself to others
 - 1. II Corinthians 10:12b (NLT) *But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement.*
 - 2. You lose your _____ with what you have when you compare it with what _____ has.
- B. Recognize your own _____.
 - 1. Psalm 139:13 (NAS) *For You formed my inward parts; you wove me in my mother's womb.*
 - 2. Envy is also an expression of _____.
 - 3. Psalm 139:14, 17 (NAS) *¹⁴I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. ¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!*
 - 4. God has a _____ for your life! His plan for you is _____.
 - a. Jeremiah 29:11 (NAS) *"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."*

- C. Be _____ for what you have
1. Myth behind envy - - "I must have more than _____ in order to be happy."
 2. Envy is a source of _____ for a lot of people.
 - a. Ecclesiastes 4:4 (NAS) *I have seen that every labor and every skill which is done is the result of rivalry between a man and his neighbor. This too is vanity and striving after wind.*
 3. Philippians 4:11 (NAS) *Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.*
 4. Contentment is not a natural trait. It's something we all must "_____."
 5. How to learn contentment:
 - a. Realize I already have more than I _____.
 - b. Definition of contentment - - "Understanding that God has provided all that I _____ for my current happiness."
- D. Focus on pleasing _____
1. Colossians 3:2 (NAS) *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*
 2. Almost all things on earth are only _____. They won't last. Only two things will last forever:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 3. Focus your life on what's going to last _____! Make pleasing _____ the primary aim of your life!
 4. What matters is what I do with what _____ has given _____.
 5. "Sometimes life isn't fair"!
 - a. Proverbs 23:17 (NAS) *Do not let your heart envy sinners, but live in the fear of the LORD always.*
 - b. Don't worry that life isn't fair. The books aren't closed yet. God hasn't written the _____ _____!
 6. The fact is, some people will get ahead of you in life (with less honesty, integrity, commitment, etc.) Don't be envious. One day _____ will _____ it!

V. Conclusion