

Envy vs Contentment

Which one are you finding?



Welcome to the NewDay Worship Service today!

Worshipping Our Lord Together

We invite you to reflect on the words from James 3:13-18
as we enter into worship...

Who is wise and understanding among you?
Let them show it by their good life,
by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts,
do not boast about it or deny the truth.
Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven
but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
For where you have envy and selfish ambition,
there you find disorder and every evil practice.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure;
then peace-loving, considerate, submissive,
full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.
Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

*"You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.'
You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have,
you would not be satisfied if it were doubled."*
Charles Spurgeon

READ: Genesis 4:1-12

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man."

² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."

While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰ The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

Def: Envy = "A feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck while defining the verb envy as "A desire (covetousness) to have a quality, possession, or other desirable thing belonging to someone else."

Harold Coffin said, "Envy is the art of counting your neighbors' blessings instead of your own."

REFLECT: Where does envy raise its ugly head in your own life?

Here's what envy does...

- Envy keeps our current and potential relationships from growing.
- Envy judges other people's motives
- Envy hurts other people.
- Envy reveals the condition of our hearts.
- Envy is sinful and has serious consequences.
- Envy leads to anxiety in our lives
- Envy diminishes the enjoyment of life.
- Envy breaks the tenth commandment



"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor Exodus 20:17 (NIV)."

What does envy push out of your life?

A heart at peace gives life to the body,
but envy rots the bones. Proverbs 14:30

To beat envy in your life there are two key steps needed...

Step 1: I must first _____

(note the James text on front of handout)

Step 2: Learn to celebrate _____

Prodigal son reminder... "We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!" Luke 15:13

Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

Read: Mark 10:35-45

... So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ⁴³ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Who am I envious of?

Where am I comparing myself with another person?

What are some ways (either healthy or unhealthy) that you've dealt with any temptations toward envy and a lack of contentment in the past?

What helps you fight envy in your own life?

PRAYER FOR OUR NEWDAY STAFF & LEADERS

We have been looking at where God might be leading us as a congregation to meet each week for worship and ministry. We are in conversations with various churches, places, and ministries in our city. Our goal is to find where we might best collaborate to succeed in our mission, vision, and values. Please continue to keep us in prayer as we pursue these conversations over the next few months in preparation for this fall. Thank you!

NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships with God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

FIND OUT MORE... [newdaycov.org](http://www.newdaycov.org)
(Online giving: <http://www.newdaycov.org/give>)