**Overcoming a Soul full of Troubles**

1. Envy and natural wisdom work together causing the soul to be full of trouble.
   1. Envy is doubled minded.
      1. Doubled minded

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

1Pe 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: De 28:9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

James 3:13 ¶ Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

* 1. Natural wisdom is doubled minded.

James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

* + 1. Envies

1Pe 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

* + - 1. Envy is a negative feeling that you have something I don’t have or don’t want.
      2. Envy makes you feel like they have an unfair advantage or they live so far below the standards.
      3. Envy of your success makes me bitter, angry, hateful, malicious.
      4. More envy comes with being bitter, angry, hateful, malicious.
      5. You not accepting my slow success has made me full of envy.
      6. Success not accepted, rewarded or promoted has made men full of envy.

A person may be faithful church-goer and live a morally good life, and yet harbor “envy” in his heart and trouble his soul.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

* “Envy” is a sin that every person has to face.
* “Envy” is a sin that not every person detects.
* “Envy” is a sin that not every person confesses.

A person may be faithful church-goer and live a morally good life, and yet have only “earthly wisdom” in his heart and trouble his soul.

James 3:13 ¶ Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

* Lack of true wisdom is a sin.
* Lack of true wisdom is a sin that not every person detects.
* Lack of true wisdom is a sin that not every person confesses.

What is wisdom, true wisdom?

Misunderstanding wisdom is a temptation that attacks all men.

One of the greatest temptations is to apply natural wisdom rather than obey God.

Another temptation is to try to force true wisdom.

True wisdom is added by God to a diligent Faith, shown with meekness of wisdom.

2. Green with envy is a seldom confessed sin!

James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

“Envy” can be pictured as a devilish thing with wide ears for catching slander, with a tongue that is a serpent, and with feet standing in the mud.

C. Socrates said, “Envy is the daughter of pride, the author of murder and revenge, the begetter of secret sedition, the perpetual tormenter of virtue. Envy is the filthy slime of the soul; a venom, a poison, a quicksilver, which consumeth the flesh and drieth up the bones.”

I. WHAT IS ENVY?

1. Envy defined:

a. Webster … discontent at the good fortune of another; resentful, begrudging.

b. To look against, to eye with an evil intent saying I just don’t trust this man.

c. Envy is the uncomfortable feeling in the advances, advantages, or good fortunes of another.

Ge 30:1 And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel **envied** her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.

2 And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Ge 26:13 And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: 14 For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines **envied** him. 15 For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth.

Are we satisfied with our three bedroom house until our best friend moves into a four bedroom house? That’s envy!

Were you satisfied with driving a five year old car until your friend got a brand new car? That’s envy!

Mr 7:20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

II. THE NATURE OF ENVY

1. [James 3:14-15](http://gateway) … envy is devilish

2. Envy is treacherous because it can cause the righteous to envy evil doers … “For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked” ([Psalm 73:3](http://gateway)).

3. It makes you wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

a. The elder brother was envious ([Luke 15:30](http://gateway)).

b. Envy causes discomfort at the advantages, advances and good fortunes of others.

4. Envy is likened to cancer of the bone.

a. “A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones” ([Proverbs 14:30](http://gateway)).

b. As malignancy is to the bones and leprosy is to the flesh, so is envy to our soul.

5. Envy is classified as being worse than wrath and anger ….. “Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?” ([Proverbs 27:4](http://gateway)).

C. THE ASSOCIATES OF ENVY

1. In [1 Peter 2:1](http://gateway) “envy” is associated with malice, guile, hypocrisies and evil speakings.

2. In [Galatians 5:19-21](http://gateway) “envy” is associated with adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like.

3. In [2 Corinthians 12:20](http://gateway) “envy” is associated with debates, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swelling, and tumults.

4. In [1 Timothy 6:4](http://gateway) “envy” is associated with strife, railings, evil surmisings, and perverse disputings.

5. In [Titus 3:3](http://gateway) “envy” is associated with foolishness, disobedience, deception, divers lusts and pleasures, malice and hate.

6. In [1 Corinthians 3:1-3](http://gateway) “envy” is associated with strife and divisions.

7. In [Romans 1:29-32](http://gateway) “envy” is associated with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

8. From all of this we get a glimpse of God’s estimation of the blackness of envy.

a. Many wouldn’t dare be involved in many of the sins mentioned, yet they are guilty of envy.

b. Yet, envy is just as despicable, destructive, disgraceful and soul-damning as any of the other sins we just mentioned.

D. THE HAVOC ENVY HAS WROUGHT IN THE EARTH

1. Because of envy, Cain slew Abel ([1 John 3:12](http://gateway))

2. Because of envy, the Philistines stopped Isaac’s well (Genesis26:12-15)

3. Because of envy, Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery([Genesis 37:11](http://gateway); [Acts 7:9](http://gateway))

4. Because of envy, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram rebelled against Moses in the wilderness ([Numbers 16:1-3](http://gateway))

5. Because of envy, men crucified our Lord ([Matthew 27:18](http://gateway))

6. Because of envy, the apostles were cast into prison and were otherwise persecuted ([Acts 5:17](http://gateway))

E. ENVY AT WORK IN THE WORLD

1. Preachers Congregations Members of the church can become envious of one another.

F. GOD STRICTLY PROHIBITS ENVY

1. [1 Peter 2:1](http://gateway); [Galatians 5:26](http://gateway); [Romans 13:13](http://gateway)

The destiny of the envious

a. Will be victims of eternal death ([Romans 1:32](http://gateway))

b. They will miss heaven ([Gal. 5:21](http://gateway))

G. WHAT IS THE REMEDY FOR ENVY? HOW MAY WE OVERCOME ENVY?

1. Love is the remedy.

a. Envy was born in hate, and is cured in love

b. “Love envieth not” ([1 Corinthians 13:4](http://gateway))

c. A parent never experiences discomfort over the advantages, fortunes or disadvantages and misfortunes of their child. Why? Love!

2. Put on Christ

a. After exhorting us not to walk in envy, Paul says, “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ” ([Romans 13:13-14](http://gateway)).

b. Putting on Christ we should live as He lived

3. Grow up, deepen our spirituality, and become mature …….[1 Corinthians 3:1-3](http://gateway)

4. Walk in the Spirit

a. Envy is one of the works of the flesh ([Gal. 5:19-21](http://gateway)) [Galatians 5:16](http://gateway)

5. Remember that we are members of the same body ([1 Corinthians 12:26](http://gateway))

a. My left arm is not envious of my right because it is stronger.

b. Likewise, there should be not envy in the body of Christ

6. Be content

a. Since envy is discontent over the advantages and well being of others, to overcome this heart ailment one must needs be content with what he has, and who he is.

b. [Philippians 4:11](http://gateway)

7. Ask for God’s help [James 4:5-6](http://gateway)

b. We need God’s help to overcome envy

We can all overcome envy if we will:

1. Consider what envy is

2. Consider the nature of envy

3. Consider the associates of envy

4. Consider the havoc envy has wrought on the earth

5. Consider God’s strict prohibition against envy

6. Consider the destiny of the envious

7. Apply the principles which assure us a cure

**Envies**

**1Peter 2:1** Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and **envies**, and all evil speakings,

**Envy comes in layers**

Full of desire for someone's possessions or advantages; extremely covetous.

laying aside

Believers must strip off "envies" (*phthonous*): a person without God lives in envy (*phthonoi*). The word means that a person covets what someone else has, covets it so much that he wants it even if it has to be taken away from the other person. He may even wish that the other person did not have it or had not received it. We may look at people and envy their...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| •  money  •  position  •  looks  •  social status  •  recognition | •  possessions  •  popularity  •  clothes  •  authority |

Note that the plural *envies* is used. This means all kinds of envies and jealousies; it means that we are not to look at a person and envy to be like them nor to have what they possess. The results of envy are terrible; envy takes a terrible toll upon the life and body of a person.

⇒  A person who envies *does not have peace or happiness.* He is dissatisfied with what he is and has and is always wanting more and more of what others have.

⇒  In addition to this, envy often drives a person into *crime and lawlessness* in order to get what he craves.

⇒  On top of this, envy often leads to *physical problems* such as migraine headaches, high blood pressure, ulcers, and other illnesses.

⇒  Envy also causes *emotional problems* ranging from mild neurosis or depression to psychotic behavior.

But thanks be to God our Savior. He saves and delivers us from envy. Through Christ He gives us real life, and He satisfies our hearts and lives with pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11). Therefore, we must strip off all envies. We must love one another and joy in the persons and possessions of others. We must love them, support and build them up, not envy and wish to see them torn down.

A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones" (Proverbs 14:30).

Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the lord

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying (Romans 13:13).

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up (1 Cor. 13:4)

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another" (Galatians 5:26).

Ps 37:1 Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

Pr 24:19 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked;

Ps 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Pr 24:1 ¶ Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

**ENVY THOU NOT**

Pr 3:31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

Pr 23:17 ¶ Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Pr 27:4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

Mt 27:18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

Mr 15:10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.

Ac 5:17 ¶ Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, {indignation: or, envy }

Ac 7:9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

Ac 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

**ENVY THOU NOT**

Ac 17:5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Ro 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Php 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

1Ti 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

James 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

# What is the difference between envy, covetousness, and jealousy?

IF you covet your neighbour's wife, it would be your neighbour of whom you were envious - for having such a wife.

If you hate your neighbor’s wife you could wrong your neighbor out of envy, again it would be your neighbour of whom you were envious - for having such a wife.

If your neighbor covet’s your wife, you could be jealous of your neighbor.

* Envy and jealousy have different meanings.
  + Envy is a feeling that you have something I Don’t have or don’t want.
  + Envy makes you feel like they have an unfair advantage or they live so far below the standards.
  + Envy of your success has made me bitter, angry, hateful and malicious.
  + Being bitter, angry, hateful and malicious about your slow success has made me full of envy.

Jealousy is a resentful suspicion that someone else has what rightfully belongs to the jealous person:

or an unequal relationship.

Jealousy is an emotion experienced by one who thinks that another person is giving something that they feel is due to them (attention, love, respect or the most affection)

Ex 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Ro 7:7 ¶ What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Ro 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The object of envy could be anything

An envious attitude always produces negative.

A jealous outlook is usually negative but it can be positive, depending on its object

Ro 10:2; Gal.4:17

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

**A chaste virgin to Christ**