

“The Sin of Envy” **I Corinthians 3:1-3**

Introduction: What does the Bible have to say about envy?

1. The Recognition of Envy (Desire—Degrade—Destroy)
 - a. “envy” (Webster’s)- “To feel uneasiness, mortification or discontent, at the sight of superior excellence, reputation or happiness enjoyed by another; to repine [To fret one’s self; to be discontented; to feel inward discontent] at another’s prosperity; to fret or grieve one’s self at the real or supposed superiority of another, and to hate him on that account.”
 - b. “envy” (Webster’s)- “Pain, uneasiness, mortification or discontent excited by the sight of another’s superiority or success, accompanied with some degree of hatred or malignity, and often or usually with a desire or an effort to depreciate the person, and with pleasure in seeing him depressed. Envy springs from pride, ambition or love, mortified that another has obtained what one has a strong desire to possess.”
 - c. Romans 1:29- *“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers”*
 - d. II Corinthians 12:20- *“For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults”*
 - e. Galatians 5:21- *“Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”*
 - f. 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.”*
 - g. “No man is a complete failure until he begins disliking men who succeed.”
 - h. “For one man who sincerely pities our misfortunes, there are a thousand who sincerely hate our success.” (Charles C. Colton)
2. The Reasons for Envy
 - a. Ecclesiastes 4:4- *“Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.”*
 - b. Galatians 5:26- *“Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”*
 - c. “Whoever envies another, confesses his superiority.” (Noah Webster)
3. The Removal of Envy
 - a. I Peter 2:1- *“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking”*
 - b. I Corinthians 13:4- *“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up”*
4. The Ruin of Envy Job 5:2- *“For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.”*

- a. "...one that is simple and void of understanding, and is easily persuaded and drawn into sin, either by his own heart, or by evil men, or by the temptations of Satan; and in whose heart envy at the prosperity of others dwells, and which insensibly preys upon him, eats up his own spirits, and is rottenness to his bones, and crumbles them into dust..." (John Gill)
- b. "Eliphaz by all this would represent and insinuate that Job was such a man, hot, passionate, and angry with God and his providence, and envious at the prosperity of others, particularly his friends; and so was a foolish and silly man, in whose breast wrath and envy rested, and would be his ruin and destruction, as he was already under slaying and killing providences." (John Gill)
- c. Although Eliphaz was wrong in his view of Job, he still knew that envy would slay someone stricken with the silliness of sin.
- d. Proverbs 14:30- *"A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."* (Envy is spiritual leukemia.)
- e. Proverbs 27:4- *"Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?"* (Consider Cain and Abel)
- f. "As rust corrupts iron, so envy corrupts man." (Antisthenes)
- g. "Happiness vanishes when envy appears." (Jewish Proverb)
- h. "Envy shoots at others and wounds herself."

Body: (Envy = Desire—Degrade—Destroy)

- I. The Philistines Envied Isaac Genesis 26
 - A. Desire Genesis 26:10-14
 - B. Degrade Genesis 26:15-16
 - C. Destroy Genesis 26:17-21
 1. Romans 13:13- *"Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."*
 2. Philippians 1:15- *"Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will"*
 3. I Timothy 6:4- *"He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising"*
 4. James 3:14- *"But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."*
 5. James 3:16- *"For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."*
- II. Rachel Envied Leah Genesis 30
 - A. Desire Genesis 30:1
 - B. Degrade Genesis 30:3-4, 8
 - C. Destroy Genesis 30:14-15
 1. Notice Leah's Dilemma Genesis 30:20, 29:30-31
 2. Notice Rachel's Death Genesis 30:23-24, 35:16-20
 3. In this tug of war of having children, Rachel fulfilled what she told Jacob in Genesis 30:1, because of envy.

- III. The Patriarchs Envied Joseph Acts 7:8-9, Genesis 37
 - A. Desire Genesis 37:3
 - B. Degrade Genesis 37:4, 5, 8, 11
 - C. Destroy Genesis 37:15-18
 - 1. Their desire was to kill Joseph. Genesis 37:19-20
 - 2. They threw Joseph into a pit. Genesis 37:23-24
 - 3. They sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites. Genesis 37:25-28
 - 4. They lied to their father about Joseph. Genesis 37:31-35
 - 5. All because of Envy!

- IV. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram Envied Moses and Aaron Ps. 106:16-18, Numbers 16
 - A. Desire Numbers 16:1-3
 - B. Degrade Numbers 16:8, 11, 12, 13-14
 - C. Destroy Numbers 16:19
 - 1. God intervenes on Moses' behalf. Numbers 16:20-21
 - 2. There is a trial of proof that Moses proclaims. Numbers 16:23-30
 - 3. Instead of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram destroying Moses and Aaron because of envy, the Lord destroyed them. Numbers 16:31-35

- V. Asaph was Envious toward the Wicked Psalms 73:1-3
 - A. Asaph's Depression Psalms 73:1-2
 - B. Asaph's Desire Psalms 73:3
 - 1. "Too many Christians envy the sinners pleasure and the saint's joy because they don't have either one." (Martin Luther)
 - 2. Psalms 37:1- "*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.*"
 - 3. Proverbs 24:1- "*Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.*"
 - 4. Proverbs 24:19- "*Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked*"
 - 5. Proverbs 3:31- "*Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.*"
 - 6. Proverbs 23:17- "*Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.*"
 - C. Asaph's Degradation Psalms 73:4-16
 - D. Asaph's Disclosure Psalms 73:17, 18-21
 - E. Asaph's Discovery Psalms 73:22

- VI. The Religious Hypocrites Envied Jesus Matthew 27:1-2, 17-18, Mark 15:10
 - A. Desire Matthew 27:17-18
 - 1. Mark 15:10- "*For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.*"
 - 2. "He saw in their countenances, and by their charges against him, and by the whole of their conduct, that it was not out of any regard to Caesar, or to the peace and tranquility of the civil government, or to strict justice; but

from envy, at his popularity, at his fame and credit, the honour, glory, and applause he had among the people, on account of his doctrine, and miracles, that they had delivered him up into his hands..." (John Gill)

- B. Degrade Mark 15:3- *"And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing."*
- C. Destroy Matthew 27:1-2

VII. The Jews Envied Paul Acts 13:45, Acts 17:5

- A. Desire Acts 13:44-45
- B. Degrade Acts 13:45
- C. Destroy Acts 13:50, 17:5

Conclusion: Was Ephraim excluded from Revelation seven because of envy?

1. Rachel Passed the sin of envy (Genesis 30:1) on to her children (Acts 7:9) and her grandchildren (Isaiah 11:13).
2. Isaiah 11:13- *"The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim."*
3. "With which it envied Judah, on account of the kingdom of the house of David, and the temple being in that tribe; not that this is the thing intended, only alluded to; the meaning is, that whatever envy or jealousy subsisted in the Gentile against the Jew, or in the Jew against the Gentile, should be no more, when gathered into one Gospel church..." (John Gill)
4. Ezekiel 35:11- *"Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will even do according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou hast used out of thy hatred against them; and I will make myself known among them, when I have judged thee."*
 - a. "So the Romish antichrist shall be dealt with; he who has led into captivity shall go into it, and he that has killed with the sword shall be killed by it." (John Gill)
 - b. "Babylon shall be rewarded double, as she has rewarded others..." (John Gill)