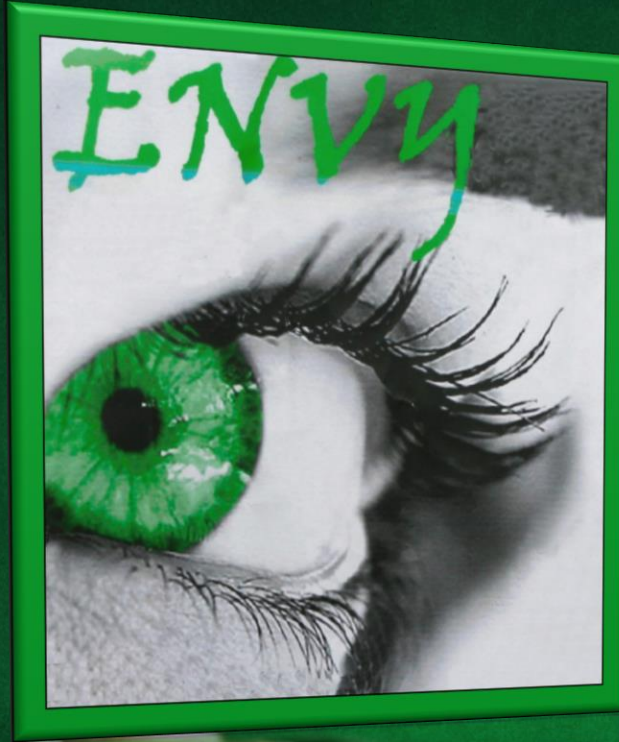


# Love Does Not...



Don't worry about the wicked or envy those  
who do wrong.  
For like grass, they soon fade away. Like spring  
flowers, they soon wither.

**Psalms 37:1-2**





Envy is the opposite of love  
because while love celebrates the good of another,  
envy seeks to destroy another in order benefit oneself.  
—Roberto de Paula Lico Jr.



# Paul's Profile Of What Divine "Love Is" Has Only Two Conditions.

Love is Patient

Love is Kind





# Paul's Profile of What Divine "Love Is NOT" Has Eight Conditions Beginning With Envy.

1. It does not envy
2. It does not boast
3. It is not proud
4. It is not rude
5. It is not self-seeking
6. It is not easily angered
7. It keeps no record of wrongs.
8. It does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.



# The Source of Envy

- Envy Comes From a Desire For What Others Have.
  - We Can Envy Status, Lifestyle, Possessions, Characteristics, or Relationships.
  - Envy Flows From Discontent.
- Envy Can Develop Into Contempt, Malice, And The Destruction Of Others.





# Contributors To Envy

- Dissatisfaction: Focusing on what one doesn't have rather than what one does have.
- Comparison to others: The false idea that one deserves a life filled with personal gain and satisfaction.
- Seeking significance: They have low self-esteem, and lack of self-worth.
- Desire for worldly gain: Seeking money, appearance, status, achievements, or talents that are of only temporary value.



# The Evil of Envy Is Legendary

Adam and Eve Toward God

Cain Toward Able

Joseph's Brothers Toward Him

King Saul Toward David





# Some Signs of Envy

- Insults
  - Possessiveness
  - One-upmanship
- Talking yourself up with others
- Downplaying the success of others
- Thinking of or doing something to those of whom you are envious.



# Envy in the Church at Corinth

## One-upmanship Was Rampant

For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:11-12





# 1 Corinthians 3:1-5

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life... for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world? After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us.

# Envy of Others' Spiritual Gifts is What Led to Paul's Description Of Love

1 Corinthians 12:18-22

<sup>18</sup> But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. <sup>19</sup> How strange a body would be if it had only one part! <sup>20</sup> Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." <sup>22</sup> In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.



## 1 Corinthians 12:23-26

And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

## 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages. Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts. But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.



# The Cure For the Sin of Envy: Contentment Fueled by the Love of Others

- Take a step back. When feeling envious, stop and realize it.
- Be honest with God and yourself. Confess your envy as sin.
- Identify and Love what God is doing in your life. (Your Gifts)
- Learn to Love what God is doing in others' lives. (Their Gifts)
- Grow. Develop your own positive qualities and unique gifts.
- Develop a lifestyle of gratitude. Be grateful for what you have.
- Be Persistent. Envy can be a constant struggle.



If you are motivated by a strong desire for  
something you don't have,  
*"...you should earnestly desire the most  
helpful gifts."*

1 Corinthians 12:31b





# Let's Pray This Prayer

Dear Father, you have been so generous to me. You alone decide which gifts and blessings I have received. I have trusted you but I want to trust you even more. I pray that your Holy Spirit will convict me of any envy in my heart and replace it with gratitude for what you have done for me and what you have done for others. Help me to love instead of envy.

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14*

