

October 25, 2026



James | Faith That Works - Week 6

“Avoiding the Comparison Trap”

James 3:13-18 (ESV)

¹³ “Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

Avoid getting caught in the comparison trap.

- Envy is comparing “up” to others.
- Boasting in comparing “down” to others.
- Both lead nowhere.

<u>Jealousy</u>	<u>Selfish Ambition</u>
“I want what you have.”	“Look what I got, and everyone notice me!”
The person/thing has become bigger than it should be in your heart.	You have become bigger than you should be in your heart.

We can’t minimize the destructive consequences of jealousy and selfish ambition. It will choke out your relationship with God.

James 3:15-16 (ESV)

- Jealousy and selfish ambition are spiritual attacks, so get in the fight!

Ways to Fight the Comparison Trap:

1. Set your mind on the vertical more than the horizontal. (Colossians 3:1-2)
2. Resist the pull of jealousy. Shut it down. (1 Timothy 6:6)
3. Champion others. (Philippians 2:3-4)
4. Be a servant. (Matthew 20:26-28)

⇒ **A wise and godly life is not driven by possessions or status.**

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV)

²³ “Thus says the LORD: ‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.’”

Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)

⁵ “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”



Upcoming Events:

- 11/1: Membership Class
- 11/6: Family Outdoor Movie Night
- 11/8: Men's Chili Cookout
- 11/13-15: High School Retreat

Register Here:

