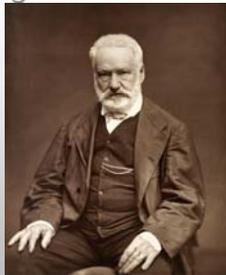


VICE
HABITS OF SIN
ENVY
WEEK 2 JANUARY 21, 2018



*“Envy &
Avarice”*
Victor Hugo, 1820

OPENING REMARKS

- Addressing sin is complicated.
- Addressing sin is painful.
- Addressing sin is personal.
- Addressing sin is critical.
- Questions (and answers) are welcomed. Please hold comments to the end (time permitting).

**God is not about making bad people good...
....but making dead people alive.**
Ravi Zacharias (paraphrased)

CLASS GOALS

- Followers of Jesus will better **understand and recognize the habits of sin in our lives** (Eph 5:13).
- The **Spirit will bring conviction** (godly grief) leading to repentance and salvation, but NOT shame (worldly grief) which leads to death (1 Cor 7:8-10).
- Followers of Jesus will find themselves **better enabled to battle vice**, the schemes of the devil (Eph 6:10-18).
- Followers of Jesus, walking with the Spirit, **finding freedom from vice**, with gentleness, will **increasingly bear one another's burdens** (Gal 5:13-6:2).
- The **gospel of Jesus** will be thus proclaimed and taught with **openness unhindered** (Acts 28:31).

WHAT IS ENVY?

- **Greed:** to want more of something
- **Covet:** to want something another has
- **Envy:** to covet something (generally a quality, worth, standing, status or honor) at the cost of another having it
- **Jealousy:** feeling threatened that something you love or possess may be taken away

DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*

FOR EXAMPLE, A HOUSE

- **Greed:** I want a bigger/better house (than I need).
- **Covet:** I want my neighbor's house.
- **Envy:** I want my neighbor's house so I will have the honor of having the best house on the street and my neighbor won't.
- **Jealousy:** If my neighbor gets a bigger house, I will lose the honor of having the best house on the street.

ENVY FURTHER DEFINED

- **"Envy is a mingling of a desire for something with the resentment that it's going well for the other person and not for you."**
John Piper, "Battling the Unbelief of Envy"
- **"Envy is a dissatisfaction with our place in God's order of creation, manifested in begrudging his gifts to others."**
St. Augustine's Prayerbook
- **"Envy is the consuming desire to have everybody else as unsuccessful as you are."**
Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

ENVY REVEALED

- We tend only to envy those whom we wish to rival or surpass in reputation. (Aquinas)
- Envy is passive-aggressive. Passive because to envy openly would be to admit inferiority. Aggressive because envy seeks to prove superiority.
- The envious judge they are worth less because someone else is better.
- To love is to seek other's good and rejoice when they have it. To envy is to seek to destroy the other's good and sorrow over their having it.
DeYoung RK, Glittering Vices.

ENVY REVEALED

- "To 'win' at envy is to destroy the possibility of love between oneself and others, and oneself and God. To be envious is to be determined to live in a way that precludes gratitude and contentment, love and happiness."
DeYoung RK, Glittering Vices.

ENVY REVEALED IN US

Where might the followers of Jesus at ECC be envious?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status / Respect? Job / Work / School / Family / Marriage success? Prosperity: Health & Wealth? Appearance? Children? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciated / Liked? Spiritual maturity? Spiritual gifts / talents? Church affinity? Church "success"? Loved?
---	--

ENVY'S ROTTEN FRUIT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative measurement of self-worth • Sadness that another's good excels ours • Selfishness & unnecessary competition • Reading false-motives in the behavior of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasure in the failures or misfortunes of others • Belittling others • Ill-will & resentment • Lying, false accusations, slander • Hatred • Murder
--	--

RK DeYoung, ibid

ENVY LEADS ASTRAY

How might envy be leading the Christ followers at ECC astray?

How might envy be compromising the mission of God at ECC?

BATTLING ENVY

- OPERATIONAL PLANNING
 - Gift: set free from sin (Rom 6:22-23)
 - Work out our salvation because God works in us (Phil 2:12-13)
 - Wrestle against spiritual forces of evil (Eph 6:10-12)
- EQUIPMENT & TACTICS
 - Scripture / Prayer / Liturgy
 - Flee, talk back, remember, confess, Lord's Supper, work, community, Sabbath rest
- OBJECTIVES (Phil 3:12-14)
 - Repentance, Perpetual struggle (never give up), New Creation

BATTLING ENVY

FLEEING ENVY: How?

- Where it is possible, flee the people, places, situations or things that prompt you to envy.

BATTLING ENVY

TALKING BACK: What to say to yourself?

- "So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander...long for spiritual milk that by it you may grow up to salvation..." (1 Pet 2:1-2)

BATTLING ENVY

REMEMBER: What?

- The foundation of your worth is not based upon you excelling anyone at anything.
- You will always lose if your worth is based upon you being better than someone.
- Your worth is akin to an infant beloved by a good mother: it is entirely, unconditionally received.

BATTLING ENVY

REMEMBER

...thus says the LORD, he who created you, O people of God, he who formed you, O Christians: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine... For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I ransomed you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I gave my Son in exchange for your life..." (Isaiah 43:1,3-4 adapted)

BATTLING ENVY

REMEMBER

In Christ Jesus, status does not count for anything, but only faith working through love... For you are called to freedom. Use your freedom through love to serve one another... I warn you as I warned you before, those who envy will not inherit my Kingdom. (Galatians 5:6,13,21 adapted)

BATTLING ENVY

CONFESS* **Pray with me.**

Heavenly Father, we are a broken people. We are sinful and unwilling to think and act the way you want us to. We are jealous and envious of others. We want things that others have, regardless of our need.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

We downplay the gifts of others, and we sometime think that they do not deserve the good things they have.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

* Kraan L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." Reformed Worship, December 2015 (Issue #118).

BATTLING ENVY

CONFESS* **Pray with me.**

We may acknowledge the gifts that others possess, but then we focus on their faults. We refuse to remove the log of wood from our own eye before removing the speck from the eye of another.

All: **Forgive us, Father.**

We can be entirely ungracious toward our fellow humans. We do not love others as we love ourselves, and in so doing, we fail to love you, the Creator of all.

* Kraan L, *ibid.*

BATTLING ENVY

CONFESS* **Pray with me.**

All: **Forgive us, Father in heaven, and in your mercy change our hearts and put our sins out of your sight. We ask this in the name of our Lord, who set us the example of sharing our joys and sorrows. Amen.**

* Kraan L, *ibid.*

BATTLING ENVY

ASSURANCE OF PARDON* **Pray with me.**

People of God, hear the Word of the Lord as he comforts us from Psalm 103:

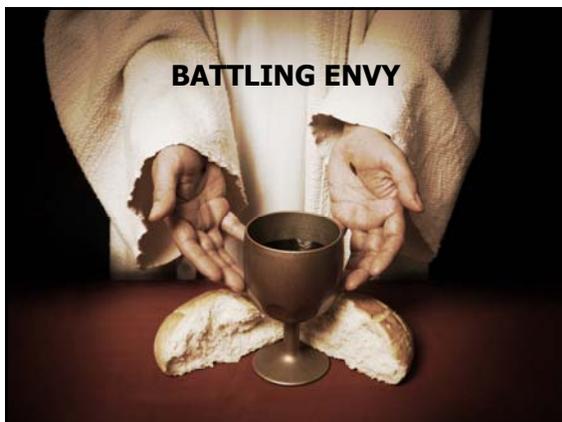
All: **Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—**

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: **Satisfied by the Lord, we put away envy and jealousy. We praise the Lord with a grateful heart for his blessings. Amen.**

* Kraan L, *ibid.*

BATTLING ENVY



BATTLING ENVY

WORK: **What can you do to battle envy?**

- **Rejoice** in others' success as if it were yours
- Practice **gratitude** (e.g. thank you notes)
- Practice **hidden acts of love**
- Involve yourself in activities with **shared common good** (e.g. music, art, nature)
- Learn to appreciate people and things **outside of a competitive framework**
- **Zeal** for the body of Christ

DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*

BATTLING ENVY

COMMUNITY: **Zeal** (~Thomas Aquinas)

"A **zealous person** can see clearly that another excels her. Because the zealous person is already secure in God's love for her, however, a love which is not conditional upon her performance, she is **free to look at herself with honest humility and desire to be better**. She acts from the conviction that the church is a body, not of competitors for God's esteem and favor...but of saints who can encourage each other along the way.

BATTLING ENVY

COMMUNITY: **Zeal** (~Thomas Aquinas)

"To have **zeal** is to see in our superiors and those we admire a model to imitate. Envy seeks to bring another down; **zeal seeks to be lifted up and made better**... Whereas envy isolates us, **zeal brings us into mentoring relationships within the communion of saints**... The saints and those we admire as excellent are not rivals that threaten, but inspirations..."

DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*

BATTLING ENVY

COMMUNITY: **How else may we persevere together to battle envy?**

BATTLING ENVY

SABBATH REST: **Are you well enough rested to battle envy in your life?**

In your neighbor's life?

MISSION: FOLLOWING JESUS



ENVY LEADS
ASTRAY



JESUS RE-DIRECTS

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them...When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!" (John 21:20-22)

Jesus says to you:

**"If it is my will that _____,
What is that to you? You follow me!"**

GRACE TO HELP IN A TIME OF NEED

HEBREWS 4:14-16

Rich Lanning

Michael Lyons

Rick Schatz

Mark Verhagen

Steve Langdon

Colleen Grogan

Erin Lyons

Sharon Schatz

Becky Verhagen

Stephanie Langdon

Sue Crosset

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

- DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*, Brazos 2009.
- Kraan L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." *Reformed Worship*, December 2015 (Issue #118).
- Piper J, "Battling the Unbelief of Envy", *Desiring God*, November 14, 1988.