Women of Grace Bible Study
Second Saturdays at 9am
36015 Friday St. Richmond, MI



Chapter Two The Unbearable Inequality: Understanding Envy

In this chapter Tilly Dillehay defines envy carefully, distinguishes it from jealousy and covetousness, confronts the reality of God-ordained inequality, and shows how envy is a destructive response rooted in thwarted pride and feelings of inferiority.

1. According to Dillehay, what is the precise difference between envy, jealousy, and covetousness? How does Scripture (including God's own "jealousy") support or illustrate these distinctions?

2. Why does the author argue that life is "unbearably unequal" and that this inequality is not a flaw in God's design but something He allows and even ordains? What biblical examples or principles does she (or the surrounding context of the book) draw on?

3. How does the chapter explain that envy thrives most intensely among peers or near-equals rather than among people who are far removed from us? What does this reveal about the comparative nature of the heart?

4. Where have you most clearly felt the "painful and often resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by someone else"? In what specific relationships or areas of life (appearance, gifts, opportunities, relationships, success) does the green of envy most easily appear for you?

5. Dillehay (drawing on C.S. Lewis and others) links envy to a deep sense of inferiority and thwarted pride—the belief that glory and honor should primarily belong to me. In what situations do you notice yourself thinking, "That's not fair" or "Why them and not me"? What does that expose about what your heart is ultimately craving?



6. The story of Solomon and the two women (and the "Tennessee Walker" image of fruitless pacing) shows that true envy would rather see the good destroyed than see another enjoy it. Have you ever caught yourself preferring that someone else's blessing diminish rather than increase? What does that reveal about the spiritual state of your heart toward God and neighbor?

7. How does the gospel of Jesus Christ—who emptied Himself, took the form of a servant, and was crucified in our place—directly confront and answer the root of envy (pride, comparison, and the demand that glory be ours)? How does belonging to Christ free us from needing to grasp at "borrowed glory"?

8. Scripture calls us to "rejoice with those who rejoice" (Romans 12:15) and declares that "love does not envy" (1 Corinthians 13:4). What would it look like, in concrete terms this week, to actively thank God for someone else's blessing?

9. How can meditating on the future glory that will be revealed in us (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17) and the glory of Christ help reorient a heart that is currently "seeing green"?

10. What specific practices of repentance, gratitude, and "putting on" love, humility, and contentment (Colossians 3; Galatians 5) will you pursue this week so that the gospel, rather than comparison, shapes your response when you next encounter someone else's advantage or success?