

Stronghold: Envy

Reflect

1. Why do you think our culture celebrates those who are “self-promoters” sometimes?
2. When we experience jealousy or envy, what are some of the feelings we experience?
3. Why do people get envious of others? What is at the root of envy?
4. Have you ever been jealous of someone? Describe the situation?

Read Your Bible

James 3:13-18 (NIV)

Luke 15:25-32 (NIV)

Apply God’s Word to Your Life

1. What does our text from James teach us about the result of envy?
2. Why is envy such a big deal? What do you think people get the most envious of?
3. What does envy and jealousy do to our souls?
4. From our texts, what seems to be the antidote to envy?
5. Luke 15 is a snippet of a larger story of the prodigal son. What was the older brother envious of?
6. What did his envy and anger keep him from experiencing or receiving?
7. What does it look like in our lives to practice gratitude and be content?
8. What are some habits of faith that can protect us from envy?
9. How does a relationship with Jesus help us fight envy?
10. How do our texts point to who Jesus is?

Conclusion

Another word for envy is covet. The commandments warn against the destruction of envy by instructing us, “do not covet”. To envy, or to covet, is to feel discontent and resentment toward our neighbor over what they have, and we don’t. Envy produces in us anger, selfishness, and grief. When we seek God as our stronghold, we discover that he is more than enough for all we can need and want. The antidote to envy is humility, gratitude, and kindness.

Kindness and gratitude cannot be faked. They come from the center of our souls and are the result of our relationship with God. When we focus on Jesus, we remember that he is all we need, and the glimmer and glam of all the shiny baubles this world offers begin to fade away considering his mercy and love. Run from envy’s grip in your life and run to the one who provides for your every need.

Pray

Lord Jesus, may we be content in you alone. For you alone are the source of our salvation, our rock and redeemer, our fortress and stronghold, and in you we will not be shaken. Remove the evil heart affliction of jealousy and envy in our lives. Place in us a pure, thankful, kind, and humble heart. Make our paths straight and actions loving to all. We love you and thank you for your shattered sin on your cross. In Jesus’ name. Amen.