



WHO IS JESUS?

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

6: HOW TO OVERCOME ENVY—JOHN 3:22-36

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I. WHAT IS ENVY?

A feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck.

Oxford Dictionary

Even though “envy” and “jealousy” are often used interchangeably in English—they do not mean the same thing...

You must not make for yourselves an idol that looks like anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the water below the land. You must not worship or serve any idol, because I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...

Exodus 20:4-5a (NCV)

Envy is never good and always sinful - because it is an inappropriate and unhealthy desire for something that rightfully belongs to someone else.

II. WHY IS ENVY SO DANGEROUS?

Envy destroys our happiness, contentment, relationships with others and our closeness with God

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

Proverbs 14:30 (NIV)

Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple.

Job 5:2 (NIV)

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT)

I have also learned why people work so hard to succeed: it is because they envy the things their neighbors have. But it is useless. It is like chasing the wind.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 (TEV)

II. HOW CAN I OVERCOME ENVY—JOHN 3:22-36

1. Find and accept God's role for me (v.22-27)

2. Realize that the greater Jesus is in my life the more joy I will have (v.28-30)

What are you so puffed up about? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why act as though you are so great, and as though you have accomplished something on your own?

1 Corinthians 1:17 (TLB)

3. Be humble enough to allow others to "outshine" me (v.31-36)