Love is patient, love is kind. **It does not envy**, it does not boast, it is not proud.

 I Corinthians 13:4

 **Remember**

Greek word for **LOVE** is a selfless concern for the welfare of others that is not called forth by any quality of lovableness in the person loved but is the product of a will to love in obedience to God’s command. It is like Christ’s love manifested on the cross.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:35

 **Definition of Envy: A feeling of disappointment over the blessing of someone else**

Envy has an element of desire in it. Somebody has experienced an advantage or benefit in life, and you want that to happen to you. The desire is tinged with resentment that it’s going well for the other person and not for you.

Envy is a stingy and demanding master. It’s stingy because, unlike many other sins, there’s absolutely nothing pleasurable about experiencing it. Most sins bait the hook: lust offers excitement and escape, greed promises wealth and pleasure, gossip promises power and participation in the inner circle. And many sins are at least temporarily pleasurable. But with envy, it’s all hook and no bait. There’s no upside to envy.

**What does the Bible say about envy?**

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. Proverbs 14:30

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Galatians 5:26

Do not get upset because of evildoers, do not be envious of wrongdoers. For they will wither quickly like the grass and decay like the green plants. Trust in the Lord and do good; Live in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:1-3

Let not your heart envy sinners but continue in the fear of the Lord all the day. Proverbs 23:17

Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood but who can stand against envy. Proverbs 27:24

Do not merely look out for your own interests but regard one another as more important than yourselves.

Phil. 2:3

For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. James 3:16

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

Such wisdom does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. James 3:1

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. Titus 3:3

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation. I Peter 2:1,2

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. Exodus 20:17

**The Complications or Implications of Envy**

* Limits promotion and entrustment from the Lord. God is looking for his people that are content and steward well what they have and can carry more, and more of His Glory. Luke 16

He says the last will be first…. Matthew 20:16

Everything we have is by grace, not by earning. Ephesians 2:8,9

Every good and perfect gift is from above….James 1:17

* Robs our ability to rejoice and love others joy and blessing.

Rejoice with those who rejoice (adjust to another’s victory, breakthroughs, increase). Romans 12:15

* Questions God’s plans, choices, and goodness. Jeremiah 29:11. Identifies unfulfilled yearnings

 Believing his favor is going to run out. Ephesians 2:4,5

* Threatens gratitude/contentment. It’s hard for envy to hide in a grateful heart. Ephesians 5:20

 Envy is the art of counting another’s blessings instead of our own.

 What does envy tell you about your heart?

“A humble man is willing to have his name and gifts eclipsed, so that God’s glory may be increased. He is content to be outshone by others in gifts and esteem, so that the crown of Christ may shine the brighter. . . A humble Christian is content to be laid aside if God has any other tools to work with which may bring him more glory.”

 *The Godly Man’s Picture*, the Puritan Thomas

Questions:

1. What is one thing God has emphasized in your heart and mind today regarding envy?
2. What circumstances/settings or subjects increase envy for us as women?

Home Appearance Relationships

Vacations Salary Kids

Ease of life Social Life Vacations

Spouse Influence Influence

Social life Marriage God’s perceived favor

1. Where do you need to believe that God has enough for you? But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, made us alive together with Christ, (by grace you are saved)” (Ephesians 2:4-5).
2. Where can you practice gratitude?
3. How have you seen “unfulfilled yearnings” create envy in you?

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 1 Timothy 6:6-12

**Exercise at Home**

Try this exercise. Develop a list of all the different ways you can think of to demonstrate contentment. You know yourself and your life better than anyone else except the Lord. Consequently, you know the things that might generate envy, jealousy, or unfulfilled yearnings in you. Make sure these things are at the top of your list. The list you develop should be personal to you. It should reflect circumstances and situations that sometimes tempt you toward discontentment.

Take the time to develop your list, but don’t be limited by it. Rather, stay in touch with your emotions so you know when envy, jealousy, or other manifestations of discontentment are bubbling up inside of you. When this happens, stop what you are doing long enough to say a prayer. Ask God to help you be content with the circumstances he has given you for the time being. Then thank him for the blessings he has bestowed on you and the eternal life that awaits you.