

Prayer List

Sierra
Gene
Veda
Judy
The Williams' Family
Ophelia

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

www.pinolechurchofchrist.com

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This Week's Question:

What king's wife disguised herself in order to consult the prophet Ahijah?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Paul - Acts 21:30-35

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Rottenness of the Bones

Leon Mauldin

Solomon said, "A tranquil heart is the life of the flesh; But envy is the rottenness of the bones." When one has a heart that is calm, peaceful and tranquil, based upon the knowledge that one is in a right relationship with God, and is conducting himself as he should toward his fellow man, it tends to result in a better measure of well-being here in this life. On the other hand, envy contributes to the deterioration of one's physical and spiritual health. Envy is the rottenness of the bones. It makes one miserable and unhappy.

Vine tells us that envy is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others. He differentiates envy from jealousy in this way: "envy desires to deprive another of what he has, jealousy desires to have the same or the same sort of thing for itself" (Vol. II, p. 37).

The Latin word in-video, from which our English word "envy" is derived, means "to look against," to look with ill-will at another person. This may be because of what one is, or because of what he has (cf. Hendriksen's Commentary on Titus, p. 388). The word "envy" means to eye with evil intent. Strangely, it seems that some who can easily enough weep with those who weep, have great difficulty at times in rejoicing with those that rejoice!

Putting It in Its Context

Looking at some of the biblical contexts in which envy is found, and seeing that with which it is associated helps us to better understand what envy is. In Proverbs 27:4, the reader is asked, "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous but who is able to stand

for envy?” Besides being found with wrath and anger, notice the companions of envy listed in 1 Timothy 6:4, where Paul describes the one who teaches a different doctrine: “He is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction” (NASB). The Gentile world was “filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity, whisperers” (Romans 1:29). Paul concluded that “they that practise such things are worthy of death” (verse 32). Consider the context in which we see envy in Titus 3:3: “For we also once were foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.” Notice that before becoming Christians, they were “living in malice and envy.” They were leading a life of soul-destroying envy! It can become a way of life for any of us today.

What Envy Does (Biblical Cases)

Because of envy, Cain killed his brother Abel. “And wherefore slew he him? Because his works were evil, and his brother’s righteous” (1 John 3:12). Abel had something Cain did not want him to have, namely, God’s approval. Cain was envious because Abel had something which he himself did not have. And yet, that which Cain could have done to have God’s approval was the very thing he refused to do.

No doubt Jacob’s partiality toward Joseph contributed to the ill feelings of the brothers (but as adults they were responsible for their choices and their actions). When Joseph told of the dreams in which God was revealing that which was to come, we are told, “And his brethren envied him; but his father kept the saying in mind” (Genesis 37:11). Because of their envy, Joseph was sold into slavery. “And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt, but God was with him” (Acts 7:9).

Because of envy, David was driven into exile, as Saul hunted for him as one would hunt for a wild animal. The women of Israel had sung of David’s victory over Goliath, “Saul hath slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands” (1 Samuel 18:7). “And Saul was very wroth, and this saying displeased him.... And Saul eyed David from that day forward” (verses 8–9). The point would be reached that Saul would pursue him on a daily basis (1 Samuel 23:14). Envy was a chief motive behind Saul’s obsession: “And Saul saw and knew that Jehovah was with David ... and Saul was David’s enemy

continually” (1 Samuel 18:28–29). The problem, of course, was with Saul and with his sinful envy.

Envy put Christ on trial, and cried out for His crucifixion. Pilate “knew that for envy they had delivered him up” (Matthew 27:18). The Pharisees and scribes, the Sadducees, and especially the Sanhedrin could not stand the fact that the multitudes were flocking to Jesus, and were believing on Him. John lets us hear how they talked among themselves: “If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him” (John 11:48). “The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Behold how ye prevail nothing; lo, the world is gone after him” (John 12:19). How could we miss the envy in these words?

Spiritual Results of Envy

If unchecked, envy will distract a Christian from serving God as one fixates upon the object of his envy. It can completely destroy one’s effectiveness in the Lord’s kingdom. As with all unforgiven sins, the end result of envy is spiritual death (Romans 6:23). Envy is specifically mentioned as one of the works of the flesh which will cause one to miss heaven (Galatians 5:19–21).

The Cure

Envy must be laid aside. “Putting away therefore all wickedness, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile that ye may grow thereby unto salvation” (1 Peter 2:1–2). At stake is one’s relationship to God. Envy must be eliminated if one is to be in right relationship with God. Developing biblical love is essential, for “love envieth not” (1 Corinthians 13:4). To cure envy, one must walk as the Spirit directs through the word. Paul said, “Walk by the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).

Envy is the rottenness of the bones. It is deceptive, destructive and deadly.