



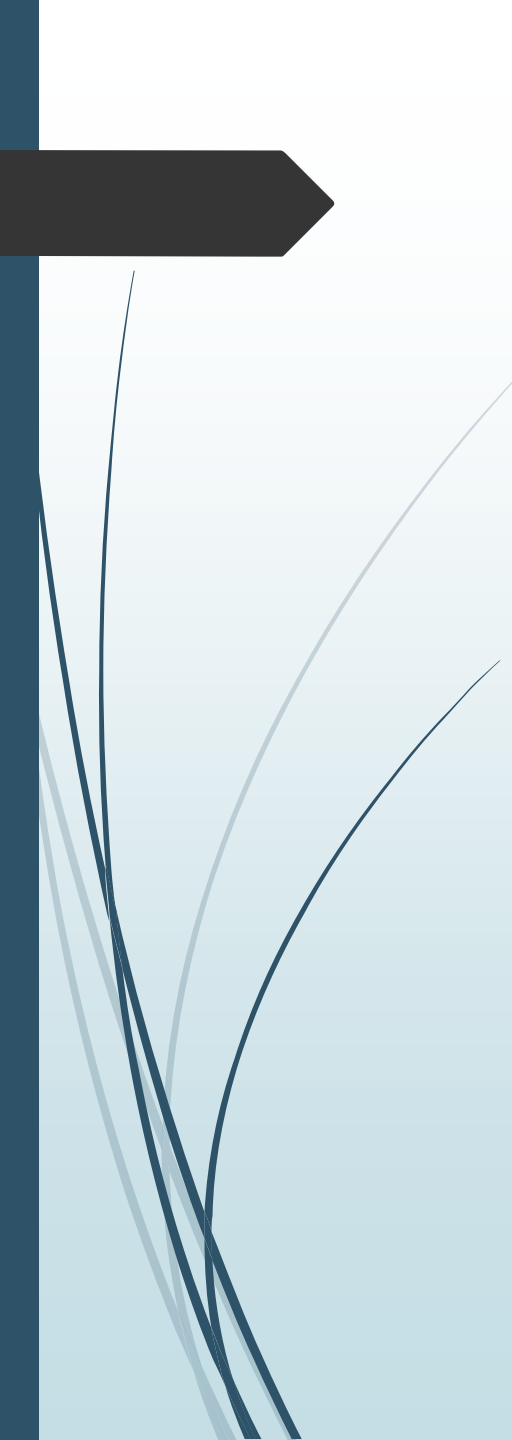
Envy, Jealousy, and Related Sins

Based on Respectable Sins by Jerry Bridges



Envy

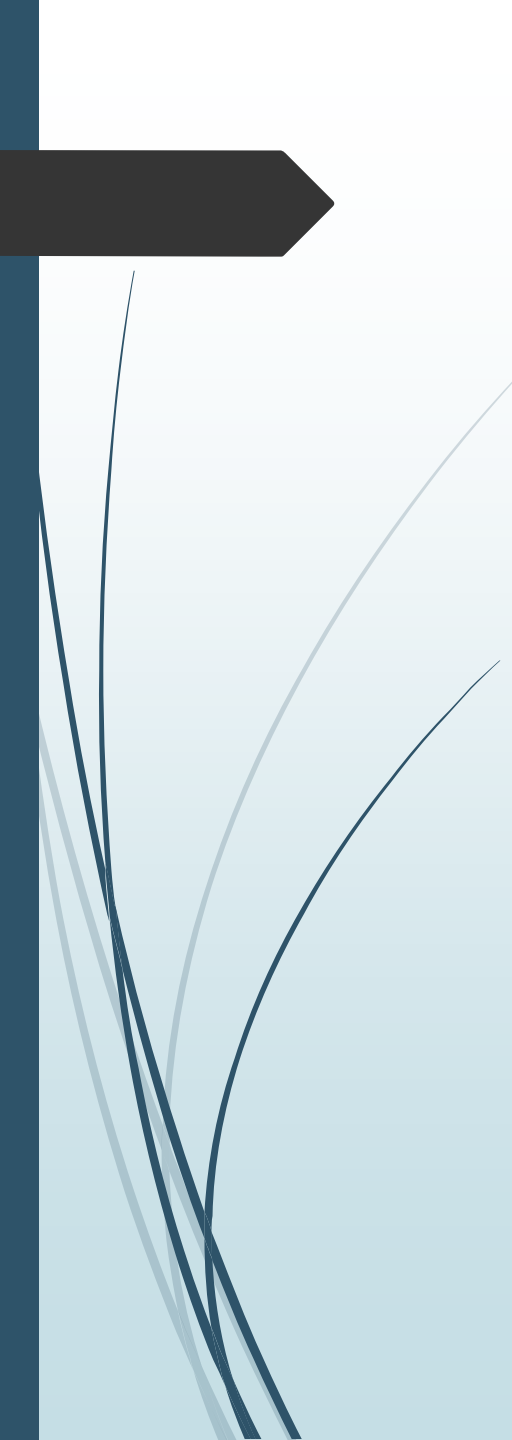
- Envy is the painful and oftentimes resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by someone else.
- Sometimes we want that same advantage, leading to the further sin of covetousness.
- Sometimes we just resent the other person having something we don't.
- We tend to envy those with whom we most closely identify.
- We tend to envy in them the areas we value most.
- I'm a science teacher, and I know several amazing science teachers who can do things in a classroom I simply cannot do. Several of them get held up as examples of how to teach and get asked to give trainings and such to other teachers. Sometimes, I envy their skills. Why? We are equals with similar intelligence, education, and training. I hate talking to other teachers (because they make the worst students!)

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- It's because they get more recognition than I do. The temptation to envy is very subtle.
 - I'm never tempted to envy pro athletes: I'm too round, too old, and too sedentary to care that much. Their talents, skills, and abilities are completely different from mine, so I don't tend to compare myself with them.
 - I'm rarely tempted to envy new teachers because they simply don't know as much or have as much skill in the classroom as I do. (I do sometimes envy their energy).
 - The reason we are tempted to envy is that there are enough things alike that the differences tend to strike us in the face.
 - Whenever we compare ourselves with anyone whose circumstances seem better than ours, we face the temptation to envy him or her.
 - We may not even want those circumstances; we just resent them having them.
 - Romans 1:29
 - Galatians 5:21

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Jealousy

- ▶ There is a subtle difference between jealousy and envy, but they are so similar they are often used as synonyms.
- ▶ Jealousy is usually defined as intolerance of rivalry. This occurs when we are afraid someone is going to become equal to or even superior to us.
- ▶ There are legitimate occasions for jealousy, such as someone attempting to steal our spouse away.
- ▶ God is a jealous God. Exodus 20:5
- ▶ Acts 5:17-18
- ▶ Acts 13:44-45
- ▶ I Samuel 18:7-9

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- At some point, someone will show up at your job and steal your thunder by being better at the job you do than you are. Jealousy usually shows up here.
 - So how do we deal with jealousy?
 - First, turn to the sovereignty of God. He gives us our talents, skills, abilities, and opportunities and degrees to which we can use them.
 - I Samuel 2:7
 - Psalm 75:7
 - Recognize that being jealous of someone is either eliminating God from the picture or accusing Him of being unfair.
 - Second, remember that all of us who are believers are one body in Christ and members of one another. Romans 12:5-10.
 - We should honor and applaud those that overtake us in some way because we are members of the same body in Christ.
 - Third, realize if you spend emotional energy on envy or jealousy, you lose sight of what God might do uniquely in our lives.
 - God has a place and an assignment for each of us that He wants us to fill.



Competitiveness




- ▶ Competitiveness is the close ally of envy and jealousy. It is the urge to always win or be the top person in whatever our field of endeavor is.
- ▶ It is basically an expression of selfishness. It is the urge to win at someone else's expense. It is definitely not loving your neighbor.
- ▶ We should always do our best. II Timothy 2:15
- ▶ We should work heartily. Colossians 3:23
- ▶ Seeking to do our best should be motivated by a desire to glorify God, not win recognition for ourselves.
- ▶ There's nothing wrong with healthy competition, but the question we should be asking is "did we do our best?" not "did we win?"



Controlling

- This is the sin of seeking to control others to our advantage or to get what we want.
- There is always one person in a relationship that is stronger or more dominant than the others, and if they are not careful they can control the relationship.
- Happens in marriages, work relationships, between kids, or amongst friends.
- The controller will seek to get his or her way using various methods.
- Dominating a relationship by sheer force of willpower to get their way. Get angry when his or her decisions are questioned or desires are not readily granted. Resorting to manipulation to get their way.
- Ephesians 5:21
- This obviously springs up from selfishness.

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- ▶ You need to ask those closest to you if you have any of these sin problems. Be ready for them to not be willing to share with you, especially if you are controlling.
 - ▶ You will have to demonstrate really humility before they will be willing to risk telling you the truth.
 - ▶ I Peter 5:5
 - ▶ Next week, we look at sins of the tongue.