

THE THEOLOGY OF LOVE Part V

“Love is not envious”

Reference: **I Corinthians 13:1-13**

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Characteristic One...love is **patient**

Characteristic Two...love is **kind**

Characteristic Three...love is not **envious**

verse four, *“Love suffers long and is kind, love does not envy...”*

Starting at this third statement about love, Paul begins a string of eight consecutive characteristics that describe what love is not, and the first thing love is not is that it is not envious.

Most people assume that envy and jealousy are one and the same thing because in normal conversation the two words are sometimes used on an interchangeable basis; but, although the words are closely related to one another, in a strict sense, the words represent two distinct emotions.

Being **envious** means someone wants to _____ what someone else has.

Being **jealous** means someone wants to continue to _____ what he already has and he doesn't want someone else to have it.

That's also the reason God is said to be a jealous God; but, nowhere in Scripture does it state that God is an envious God.

Reference: **Exodus 34:14** (see screen)

It has been suggested that envy exists in two basic forms:

- _____ envy
Definition: This envious form is that we _____ what someone else has.
- _____ envy
Definition: This envious form is that we want what someone else has so much that we actually _____ them to have it.

In the original Greek language, the root word for envy means “to _____” because being envious can be this internal seething and boiling and steaming up on the inside because someone else has succeeded above us.

Reference: **Mark 15:10** (see screen)

One of the classic biblical passages that illustrates this problem is found in Matthew's gospel.

Reference: **Matthew 20:1-15** (see screen)

Let's pull from this biblical narrative four strategic steps that can help rid ourselves of an envious attitude.

STEP ONE is to _____ the comparison games.
verses ten through twelve (see screen)

- We are _____.
- Comparing has the potential to result in two different sins: _____ or _____ or both.

STEP TWO is to _____ in the fact God has blessed someone else.

verses thirteen through fourteen (see screen)

STEP THREE is to be _____ with what we have.
verse fifteen (see screen)

The concept of contentment is taught throughout Scripture.
Reference: **I Timothy 6:8; Philippians 4:11b** (see screen)

Definition: Contentment is defined as being _____ with what God has for me.

STEP FOUR is to trust God if something seems _____.