

BEWARE THE ENVY TRAP

Dear Friend:

Only you can be you! And God wants you to be you! He created you, gave you unique talents and has gifted you with spiritual gifts that he wants you to use for his purposes. God never creates clones, never copies what he has already made, and never duplicates a life plan. To attempt to be what you were not created to be just leads to frustration, fatigue, and failure.

We usually associate envy with the desire to have more money, own a car someone else drives or own the house someone else lives in. However, envy can take a hundred forms. Envy wishes we had someone else's abilities, spouse, job, etc. Envy is a trap and a global sin. The worst part of envy is that it is an insult to God. Every time you wish you were someone else, have what they have or do what they do you are saying: "God, you made a huge mistake with me." Envy is a destructive attitude and God knew mankind would have so much struggle with it that he included instructions about it in the 10 Commandments: "Thou shalt not envy."

Envy has three harmful effects. First, envy denies your uniqueness. Just as there are no two snowflakes alike and no two fingerprints alike, no two human beings are exactly alike. Remember, when you stand before God, he will not ask you why you didn't copy someone else, but, if you used all the talents and spiritual gifts he gave you. Second, envy misuses your time and energy. Envy says: "I've always got to have more: more money, more possessions, more prestige, etc." Envy never has enough. Third, envy is one of the 7 deadly sins. Envy leads to other sins. Cain envied his brother Abel and killed him. Joseph's brother's envied him and sold him into slavery. Paul's opponents envied him and ran him out of town more than once.

Beware of envy, it sneaks up on you. Refuse to envy anyone and be the person God created you to be. Heed Proverbs 14:30, "A heart at peace gives life to the body but envy rots the bones."

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Drew & Claire Dague & new baby boy!, Betty McCombs, Steve Derwent (son of our music director Steve Derwent).

Events: Friday, July 26th Men's Breakfast at Tim Horton's