

# Why We Shouldn't Envy

Sermon Outline (Matthew 20:1-16 and Philippians 1:12-26)

- I. We envy when we compare with others & think life isn't fair.
  - A. It's so easy to envy what someone else has.
  - B. The 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment says, "you shall not covet..."
  - C. We think life should be treating us all fairly.
  - D. Life isn't fair, but God is good.
    - 1. In hardships we should cry out to the Lord, spend time in his presence & let his love lift us up.
    - 2. One whose life isn't fair-is shaped for compassion.
- II. We shouldn't envy wicked, arrogant people or other Christians.
  - A. Psalm 73 warns us about envying wicked people. Asaph almost stumbled because of it.
  - B. Matt. 20 implies we shouldn't envy other Christians.
    - 1. some labor for the Lord longer than others in this life.
    - 2. think there should be greater reward for longer service
    - 3. many who've committed crimes will be in heaven.
    - 4. Pharisees looked down on even repentant sinners, so Jesus warned "last shall be first & first shall be last."
    - 5. Are we envious because God is generous w/heaven?
  - C. Envy applause other Christians get for their ministry?
  - D. Paul was aware of rivalry others felt towards him.
- III. Contentment and knowing we are loved are antidotes for envy.
  - A. In Philip. 1 Paul had no envy from what others doing.
    - 1. He rejoiced that gospel was being proclaimed by them
    - 2. He didn't see his circumstances as unfruitful.
    - 3. Believed Christ would be exiled if he lived or died.
  - B. We shouldn't be envious of other Christians/churches.
    - They aren't rivals, but co-workers for Christ.
  - C. We're blessed in our united Ministerial Assoc. ministry
  - D. Every church/person is unique/gifted/loved by God.
  - E. God doesn't love or bless others any more than us.
    - 1. We forget that when we covet what others have.
    - 2. Have treasure of eternal life & Christ's presence now.
    - 3. When he worshipped God Asaph realized this.
  - F. Knowing the love & fullness of Christ will banish envy.