

The Seven Deadly Sins

Part Two - Greed and Envy

James 1:13-15

God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

1 Peter 2:1

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Greed is a deadly sin that must die.

Colossians 3:5-6

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

Ephesians 5:3

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Greed evaluates worth by possessions.

Luke 12:15

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Greed creates a trap we cannot escape.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Greed should not be trivialized.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 5:11

But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

Ephesians 5:5

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Luke 16:13

“No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Greed will fill our lives with trouble and strife.

Proverbs 15:27

A greedy man brings trouble to his family but he who hates bribes will live.

Proverbs 28:25

A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

Greed is no less evil when lived out behind a religious mask.

Matthew 23:25-26

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.”

How to Deal a Deathblow to the Deadly Sin of Greed

1. Get a grasp on what true riches are.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!

2. Become a conduit of blessing.

Genesis 22:17

That in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens...

3. See yourself as a steward.

1 Corinthians 4:2

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

4. Serve the poor and the less fortunate.

Proverbs 19:17

If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD - and he will repay you!

Envy is a deadly sin that must die.

Ecclesiastes 4:4

And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Proverbs 23:17

Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.

Envy leads to an unhealthy life.

Proverbs 14:30

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

Envy is the result of a depraved way of thinking.

Romans 1:28-32

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind; to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Galatians 5:19-21

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

To envy is to hate and be hated.

Titus 3:3

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

Envy will ultimately cripple us.

James 3:14-16

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

How to Deal a Deathblow to the Deadly Sin of Envy

1. Learn contentment.

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

2. Rejoice in other’s successes.

Romans 12:15-16

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.

3. Become more of a giver than a getter.

Acts 20:35

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’