

THE ANTIDOTE FOR ENVY
“Showing Love To Each Other”

1 Cor. 13 Part 4

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“Love does not envy.” 1 Cor. 13:4b (NIV)

ENVY - Resenting God's goodness to others & ignoring God's goodness to me

“Wherever there is envy... you'll find every kind of evil.” James 3:16

How evil is envy?

"Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. Mark 15:9-11

THE ANTIDOTE FOR ENVY

Jesus' Story of the Vineyard Workers (Matt. 20)

1. STOP COMPARING YOURSELF TO OTHERS.

“Those hired last came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more.” Matt. 20:9-10a (Msg)

2. START ENJOYING GOD'S GRACE TO OTHERS.

“The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard... He said, ‘Are you envious because I am generous to them?’”
Matt. 20:10-11, 15b (CEV/NIV)

“Rejoice with those who rejoice!” Rom. 12:15 (NIV)

3. BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE

“Isn't everything you have and everything you are sheer gifts from God? So what's the point of all this comparing and competing? You already have all you need!” 1 Cor. 4:7b-8a (Msg)

“It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else.”
Eccl. 6:9 (GN)

4. TRUST GOD WHEN LIFE SEEMS UNFAIR

“These last workers put in only one easy hour, and yet you have made them equal to us – we who slaved all day under a scorching sun!” Matt. 20:12 (Msg)

The Owner: “Friends, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on... What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?” Matt. 20:13-15a (CEV)

5. KEEP FOCUSED ON GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU.

The Owner: “Take your money now and go!” Matt. 20:14a (GW)

“Let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.” Heb. 12:1 (LB)

“You saw me before I was born and scheduled every day of my life before I began to breathe.” Ps. 139:15 (LB)

Jesus concluded:

"And so it is, that many who are first now will be last then and those who are last now will be first then... If you want to be great, you must become the servant of all the others." Matt. 20:16 & 26 (NLT/CEV)