

Reducing Rivalry In Relationships

Building Relational Bridges - Part 3 of 9

“If we are living now by the Spirit’s power, let us follow the Holy Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. Then we won’t need to look for honors and popularity which leads to envy and hard feelings.”
Galatians 5:25-26 (LB)

I. WHY SHOULD I AVOID ENVY?

- It distracts me from my life purpose.

“Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him, is not fit for the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62

- It causes conflict.

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you?” James 4:1

- It kindles resentment.

“Our lives were full of resentment and envy. We hated others and they hated us.”
Titus 3:3 (LB)

“For where you find envy...there you find disorder and every evil practice.”
James 3:16 (NLT)

- It makes me miserable.

“A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones!”
Proverbs 14:30

“Don’t always be wishing for what you don’t have...”

Luke 12: 15 (LB)

II. HOW TO OVERCOME ENVY IN RELATIONSHIPS?

- Resist comparing myself to others.

“We do not dare classify or compare ourselves ... (It) is not wise.”
2 Corinthians 10:12

“Let everyone be sure to do his very best, for then he will have the personal satisfaction of work done well, and won’t need to compare himself with someone else.”
Galatians 6:4 (LB)

- Recognize my uniqueness.

“You (God) created every part of me; you put me together in my mother’s womb... You saw me before I was born. You scheduled every day of my life before I began to breathe.”

Psalms 139:13, 16 (LB)

- Rejoice in what I have.

“It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else.”

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (GN)

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”

Philippians 4:11

- Respond to others in love.

“Love does not envy.”

1 Corinthians 13:4

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:39

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.”

Romans 12:15

- Refocus on pleasing God.

“Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.”

Colossians 3:2

“Don’t be envious of sinful people; let reverence for the Lord be the concern of your life. If it is, you have a bright future.”

Proverbs 23:17 (GN)

“Lord, don’t let me make a mess of things... Just tell me what to do and I will do it... Turn me away from wanting any other plan than Yours.”

Psalms 119:31-37 (LB)