



Chapter Three — *Love Does Not Envy* (1 Corinthians 13:4)

“Love does not envy...” — 1 Corinthians 13:4

Big Idea

Love refuses comparison and celebrates the blessing of others.

As Paul continues defining love, he now tells us what love *is not*: **love does not envy**. Envy fastens our hearts to what someone else has and slowly pulls us away from gratitude, joy, and trust in God. While love looks outward with generosity, envy turns inward with discontent.

The Greek word used here describes an intense, fixated desire—a burning longing for what belongs to another. Envy is more than noticing differences; it is allowing those differences to shape our emotions and attitudes. Left unchecked, it grows into bitterness and resentment.

Love and envy cannot coexist. Love asks, “*How can I bless them?*”
Envy asks, “*Why do they have more than me?*”

God models a better way. Instead of withholding, He gives freely. Instead of comparing, He blesses generously. Instead of resenting our need, He meets it through Christ. When we love like God, we learn to rejoice in others’ success and trust Him with our own story.

Envy shrinks our world. Love expands it.

Learning to love without envy means learning to detect envy early, replace it with gratitude, and actively celebrate what God is doing in the lives of others.

Practical Takeaways

- Envy focuses on what others have; love focuses on what God has given.
- Envy poisons relationships; love strengthens them.
- Envy compares; love celebrates.
- Envy competes; love cooperates.
- Envy resents blessing; love rejoices in it.

Healthy ways to uproot envy include:

- Practicing daily gratitude
- Limiting unhealthy comparisons
- Celebrating others publicly
- Praying for those you feel tempted to envy
- Remembering that God's plan is personal and custom-fit for your life

Every believer has a unique role in God's larger story. When we stop competing and start celebrating, joy multiplies.

Discussion Questions

1. Envy is sometimes called a "hidden sin." Why do we tend to keep envy or jealousy under wraps?
2. How does envy poison relationships? How do forgiveness and acceptance enhance relationships?
3. If we take the focus off what others have or do, what spiritually enriching things can we put our focus on instead?
4. Is there a person who has become the obsessive focus of your attention? If so, how can you pray for God to bless them and help you be content?
5. When you notice envy rising in your heart, what practical step can you take immediately to redirect your focus toward gratitude or celebration?
6. How would your relationships change if you intentionally practiced rejoicing in others' successes this week?