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Love Does Not Envy
13: 4c

Here is the first of eight negative descriptions of **love**. **Love does not envy** (Greek: *zeloi*, meaning *to be jealous*)**. Love** and **envy** are mutually exclusive. Shakespeare called **jealousy** "the green sickness" and **Yeshua** referred to it as an **evil eye (Matthew 20:15 NKJV). Jealousy,** or **envy,** has two forms. One form says, "I want what someone else has." If they have a better car than we do, we want it. If they are praised for something they do, we want some or more for ourselves. That sort of **jealousy** is bad enough. However, a worse kind says, "I wish they didn't have what they have" **(Matthew 20:1-16)**. The second kind of **jealousy** is more than selfish; it is desiring evil for someone else. It is **jealousy** on the deepest, most corrupt, and destructive level. This is the **jealousy** Solomon uncovered in the woman who pretended to be a child's mother. When her own infant died, she secretly exchanged him for the baby of a friend who was staying with her. The true mother discovered what had happened and, when their dispute was taken before the king, he ordered the baby cut in half, a half to be given to each woman. The true mother pleaded for the baby to be spared, even if it meant losing possession of him. The false mother, however, would rather have had the baby killed than for the true mother to have him (see the commentary on **The Life of Solomon, to see link click At – A Wise Ruling**).

Fury is cruel and anger overwhelming, but who can stand up to jealousy (Proverbs 27:4)? In its extreme, **jealousy** has a viciousness shared with no other sin. **If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart,** says **James, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing (James 3:14-16). Selfish** ambition, which is fueled by **jealousy**, is often "successful." But **its wisdom** is **demonic** and **its** worldly "success" is ultimately destructive.

Jealousy is not a moderate or harmless sin. It was **Eve's jealousy** of **God**, sparked by **her** pride, to which Satan successfully appealed. **She** wanted **to be like God**, to have what **He** has and to know what **He** knows. **Jealousy** was an integral part of that first great sin, from which all other sin has descended. The next sin mentioned in **Genesis** is murder, caused by **Cain's** sin of **jealousy** of **his** brother **Abel** (see the commentary on **Genesis Bj – Your Brother's Blood Cries Out to Me from the Ground**). **Joseph's brothers** sold **him** into slavery because of **jealousy** (see the commentary on **Genesis Jb – Joseph's Brothers Sold Him for Twenty Shekels of Silver**). **Dani'el** was thrown into the lion's den because of the **jealousy** of **his** fellow officials in Babylon. **Jealousy** causes the elder brother to resent the father's attention to **the prodigal son** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Hu – The Parable of the Lost Son and His Jealous Brother**). And there are many other similar biblical illustrations.

One of the hardest battles a believer must fight is against **jealousy**. There is always someone who is a little better. But, **love** never detracts from the praise that is due to another, nor tries to make him seem less and self seem more by comparison. The practice of the world is quite the opposite. The negatives used in **Paul's** description suggest corresponding positives. Instead of being **envious**, **love** is satisfied with its own portion and glad for others' success.[404] **Envy** was behind much of the party strife in **the Corinthian** church, **Paul** says as much (see **Ar – The Immaturity of the Worldly Believer**).

In sharp contrast to the many accounts of jealousy in **the Corinthian** church is the account of **Jonathan's** *agape* **love** for **David**, who was not only greater and more popular than **Jonathan**, but was a threat to the throne that **Jonathan** normally would have inherited. Yet we are told of nothing by **Jonathan's** great respect and **love** for **his** friend **David**, for whom **he** would willingly have sacrificed not only the throne but **himself**, **he loved David as he loved his own life (First Samuel**

20:17). Jonathan's father, King Sha'ul, lost **his** throne and **his** blessing because of **his jealousy**, primarily of **David** (see the commentary on **the Life of David Ao – Sha'ul's Jealousy of David**). **Jonathan** willingly gave up the throne and received a greater blessing because **he** would have nothing to do with **jealousy**.

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, What a wonderful **Father You** are! Thank **You** for all the godly accounts of people in **Your** Word, people like Jonathan, who showed true love to his friend. Jonathan's willingness to give up his hereditary right to being Israel's king, so his friend could be king, shows a deep **love** that is so much more than mere words but is from the heart. That unselfish attitude helps us to understand how to live in a way that pleases **You**, even in hard and unfair situations. Having **Your love** and presence is such a great peace and comfort. What joy knowing that not only did **You love** us in the past and sent **Your Son** as our **Redeemer (Second Corinthians 5:21), You love** us now and will **love** us thru all eternity! When we live with the goal to please **You** in all we do and say, we do not need to get upset when discouragement comes our way. Living for **Your** approval is what counts for all eternity. We have an audience of **One**! It is refreshing to be able to put any bitter, unfair situation in **Your** hands, to turn from **envy** to **Your loving** arms. It is a joy to live following **Your** example of love. In **Your** Holy **Son's** name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*

When **love** sees someone who is popular, successful, beautiful, or talented, it is glad for them and never **jealous** or **envious**. **Eliezer of Damascus** was the heir to **Abram's** estate because **he** had **no son (Genesis 15:2)**. When **Isaac** was born, however, and **Eliezer** lost the privileged inheritance, **his love** for **Abram** and **Isaac** never wavered (see the commentary on **Genesis Fx – Go to My Country and My Own Relatives and Get a Wife for My Son Isaac**). A **loving** person is never **jealous**, but is always glad for the success of others.[405]