

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- March 27th

As the countdown continues toward Good Friday, I cannot help but think that the Bible tells us that "Jesus was hated without a cause." Christ's last year and the final weeks of His life were permeated by "the twin-eyed monster" of Envy and Jealousy.

These "twin sisters" are sad, destructive, life-destroying emotions. They are at the root of many painful relationships, including abusive ones. They have destroyed marriages. Encouraged mistrust. Brought disharmony to untold families. Resulted in violence - and even death. They infect, inflict and affect self-esteem and gradually diminish a person's self-worth.

STOP THE GREEN-EYED MONSTERS IN YOUR LIFE! Wishing to be the person you aren't is to waste the person you are! God created you in His likeness and image. And "God doesn't make junk" as someone rightly stated.

Here are some tips to help you control the twin evils of jealousy and envy:

- Admit your feelings of jealousy. Then follow God's advice: "Give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Don't covet what someone else has or can do.
- Focus on your own qualities. Remember that you are one of a kind!
- Celebrate your strengths. Don't get bogged down on your weaknesses.
- Cultivate acceptance and self-respect. The Bible says that "you were marvelously and wonderfully made." (Read Psalms 139).
- Recognize and appreciate your accomplishments. The Bible says: "Beloved, build yourselves up" (Jude 20). Not a prideful celebration; rather, develop a thankful spirit for the goodness of God towards you.
- Many people can do several things but don't copycat. Don't piggyback. Find that one thing you can do and must do. God has given you a significant creative potential. Don't be fooled by your perception of your lack of ability.
- Remember that if you are just like someone else then you are not needed. But you are needed! You are unique! You are one of a kind! You have a specific job to do!
- Be patient with yourself. Don't get frustrated by your imperfection. The idea is not that you have faults or have made mistakes; rather, it is how you react to it. Focus on Getting Up not on staying down.
- Change the attitude of your mind. Here's God's promise to you: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." God will give you the inward fortitude to renew your thought life from envy to thankfulness, from jealousy to self-contentment.

Here's a closing thought. God sees you. And knows your struggles. God is not looking at you to see what you are doing wrong; rather, He loves you to the point that He just can't keep His eyes off you – even will all the flaws in your life. What a God! What a Love!

Have a blessed week! See you in church Sunday!

Pastor Sewdin