



DATE	October 1, 2017
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Neutralizing Envy
SERIES	We've all heard of the seven deadly sins, but they don't have anything to do with us. Or, do they? We often don't realize the subtle impact sin has on our daily lives. We need to learn how to recognize it and know how to fight back.

Introduction: In today's message, we look at the sinister sin of envy, how it robs us of joy and practical ways to neutralize it.

1. Many well-known literary giants have depicted Envy in their works. Shakespeare calls envy the "green sickness". Francis Bacon says that envy "takes no holiday". Dante vividly describes the envious in his *Divine Comedy* — particularly in *Purgatory* — as blind beggars huddle together with their eyes sewn shut. Discuss the use of blindness in describing what envy does to a person. Is it an appropriate allegory? Why or why not? What do you think is the most underestimated aspect of envy?
2. A churchgoer shared that a sense of unfairness over how much time their grown children and grandchildren spent with the other side of the family was causing some envy. Can envy sometimes feel justified? What other subtle forms of envy have you noticed?
3. As a group, read: *1 Samuel 18:5-12; 20-28; 19:1-2; 9-11*

Look at these pivot points in the story — times where Saul made decisions that led him progressively deeper into the grip of envy. How might have different decisions at those pivot points led to different outcomes?

4. Pastor David shared 4 aspects of envy:
 - Grieves at the happiness of others
 - Upset over others' wealth
 - Cheers when others stumble
 - Spiteful toward those who succeed

What are your thoughts about these points? Can you add something to the list? Which one is a particular sticking point for you and why?

5. As a group review the following scripture passages: *Proverbs 14:30; Proverbs 27:4; James 3:16; Psalm 51:12; Philippians 4:7; Galatians 6:4-5*

What truths do you draw from them? Are there other thoughts and scripture passages that you've found helpful?

6. Review the lists below. Where do you struggle the most? What scripture passages do you find helpful and what lessons have you learned that you can share?

Deadly

- Jealousy - is what we do not have
- Covetousness - is wanting what someone has
- Envy - is angry that someone else has it

Causes

- Comparison
- Criticizing
- Complaining
- Ungratefulness
- Inability to share

How do we neutralize it?

- Admit it and choose to get rid of it
- Accept what blessings God has given you
- List things that you are grateful for
- Learn the joy of generosity
- Invite Jesus into your disappointments
- Review the goodness of God's love

7. Pastor David said one of the ways to neutralize envy is to create a list of things you are grateful for. End your meeting by sharing 3 things you are grateful for.

Conclusion: As a group, pray that God speaks to each of you individually on where you might need spiritual attention.