Envy
Discussion Questions

1. Read **Philippians 2:5-11**. Jesus was never envious.[1] Why not?

2. Look at **Matthew 22:37-39**. How does envy fail to love self? How does it fail to love our neighbour?

    How can we grow in our understanding that, because of Christ, we are unconditionally loved and accepted?

3. Look at **1 Corinthians 1:20-25**, how does the gospel invert the value system envy depends on?

4. Look at **Proverbs 27:4**: why might envy be even more destructive than anger… and for who?

    Specifically, why is envy destructive of relationships?

        Have you seen this at work in your or others' lives?

    Conversely, have you seen a rivalry that was *not* destructive but raised people to new heights of fruitfulness or success?[2]

        What's the difference between these types of rivalry?

5. Look at **Romans 12:15**: How might the envious struggle to do this and why?

6. What does the person, or type of people you envy say about what you value in yourself?[3]

7. Which of your relationships are built on competition and comparison and which are not?

8. How do you respond to the blessing and success of others? Are you genuinely happy for them? Or, do you ever find yourself murmuring?

    If you were a general in Saul's army and you were replaced by a shepherd boy, how would you react?

9. Is your life marked by gratitude or ingratitude?[4]

    What practical steps can we take to cultivate an attitude of gratitude?

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[1] Hitlist, Hedges, 46.

[2] Glittering Vices 2nd ed, DeYoung, 85.

[3] ibid, 85.

[4] Hitlist, Hedges, 45.