

# Overcoming Envy

*Rick Warren*

I. Introduction. The greatest barrier to a life mission is envy. (Galatians 5:25-26)

II. Envy is resenting God's goodness in other's lives and ignoring God's goodness in one's own life. It is very destructive and will cause much pain in one's life.

A. It distracts one from His life purpose. (Luke 9:62)

B. It causes conflict. (James 4:1)

C. It leads to other sins. (James 3:16)

D. It makes one miserable.

III. Ways to overcome envy.

A. Resist comparing oneself to others. (II Corinthians 10:12, Galatians 6:4)

B. Recognize your uniqueness. God has a customized life plan for everyone. (Psalm 139:13, 15)

C. Rejoice in what you do have. (Ecclesiastes 6:9, Philippians 4)

1. We need to learn contentment.

2. Contentment is knowing we have all we need.

D. Respond in love.

E. Refocus on pleasing God. When you do this, climbing the ladder of success becomes irrelevant. (Colossians 3:2, Psalm 119)

## Application questions:

1. When have you struggled with envy? What did you learn?

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2. How would you counsel someone struggling with envy? Explain.

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3. Why does envy threaten purpose?

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