

The Old Hickory

Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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ENVY

Envoy is defined as “the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others” (- W.E. Vine); “painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage” (Webster’s Seventh New Collegiate); “Uneasiness, mortification, or discontent at the sight of another’s superiority or success, accompanied with some degree of hatred or malignity, and often or usually with a desire or an effort to depreciate the person envied” (Webster’s Twentieth Century).

In Galatians 5 envy is listed as a work of the flesh (vss. 19-21), among such things as fornication, idolatry and drunkenness, and is contrary to the “fruit of the Spirit” (vss. 22-23). It is sinful in every form. In Romans 1:29-31, envy is listed among such things as wickedness, murder, and deceit. These sins were characteristic of the pagan world, people who “refused to have God in their knowledge, people who had a “reprobate mind” (Rom. 1:28). In Paul’s epistle to Titus he expressed, “For we also once were ... living in ... envy” (Titus 3:3), but the Scriptures instruct those who would obtain mercy to put away envy (I Peter 2:1). Envy is characteristic of people who walk in darkness, who are not the people of God, and who have not obtained mercy (I Peter 2: 9-10). In Phil. 1:15, Paul stated that “Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife,” because they thought it would add to Paul’s affliction (1:17).

Envy is sinful in itself. It also brings about and promotes other sinful actions. In Mark 15:10, Pilate “perceived that for envy the chief priests had delivered” Jesus up to be crucified. In Genesis 37:11, we are told of the envy that Joseph’s brothers had for him, which caused them to sell him into slavery.

Envy is not written on the faces of people to be discerned easily, thereby giving the spiritually minded an opportunity to restore the envious one who has been overtaken by this sin (Gal. 6:1). Envy is a sinful attitude of heart that must first be recognized by the guilty one if he will but look in the “mirror” of the “perfect law” (Jas. 1:23-25). If envy continues in a brother’s heart, he has deceived himself, his religion is vain (cf. Jas. 1:26). Brethren who learn the true “rotteness” (Prov. 14:30) of envy will not only realize what it may lead to, but will also perceive other sins which produce this malignant evil. A brother who feels pain or resentment at the advantages or prosperity of others, is likely to take pleasure in their setbacks and reversals. Many times envy is brought about by covetousness. Our lust for things promotes resentment of those who have the things we desire, that we have not possessed. Often we let envy destroy our ambition to reach greater excellencies that others possess. We childishly refuse to cultivate our talents, grow in knowledge, serve more faithfully in the kingdom because of our envy of those who have many talents, more knowledge, and greater faith. There are some brethren who could be teaching classes, leading singing, or serving Christ in other ways, who are not, because of envy. Others will praise and encourage only those brethren that they view as below their level of attainment because of envy. An envious person will depreciate, belittle and backbite the one envied.

If envy is not sinful and shameful, why will the guilty never dare acknowledge it? The cure for envy is found in Mark 12:29-31. Brethren, “love envieth not ...” (I Cor. 13:4).
- GFS

SAY WHAT YOU MEAN!

Preachers have an unusual opportunity to listen to people. In the course of their many conversations, many promises are given, statements made and excuses offered. Perhaps it is easy to see then that some people do not “say what they mean.”

THEY SAY usually means “I heard it from at least one source but everybody must believe it.”

IT NEEDS TO BE DONE means “I’m not going to do anything about it but the church ought to.”

I’VE HEARD SOME CRITICISM usually means “I’m against it, but I don’t have the nerve to state my belief.”

THE WHOLE CHURCH IS UPSET usually means “Two or three loudmouths have turned loose their venom.”

IT MIGHT BRING CRITICISM means “I know it should be done but it just takes too much effort for me to do it.”

IT MIGHT CAUSE A DIVISION usually means “If you do it, I will sow discord and split this church.”

IF MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT really means “I’m going to say something I’m not sure of whether true or false, but if somebody discovers I’m wrong, then I can always blame my memory.”

PREACHER, I WILL BE THERE IF I’M NOT PROVIDENTIALY HINDERED nearly always means “If I am not there, you can blame God for it.”

I WON’T PROMISE, BUT I WILL DO MY BEST means “Don’t expect too much out of me.”

I’M STILL STUDYING THE QUESTION means usually, “I want to stay in a position to agree with both sides.”

I’LL COME EVERY TIME I CAN usually means “If I do not have something better to do, I’ll be there.”

- unknown

JUST A LITTLE PUSH

I was sitting in my car the other day when an old Model A Ford stalled nearby. The driver was utterly unable to start the old vehicle, and traffic was halted for a block. Horns sounded and angry drivers shouted their unpleasant words at the embarrassed man. After a time the cars began to move around the unfortunate owner of the old Ford. Finally one driver in the long line of cars drove behind the stalled car and gave it a push. Soon it began moving under its own power and traffic got under way again.

How like life that is! Someone is halted by circumstances. Most people shout their maledictions upon the luckless individual and leave him to his fate. All he really needs is just a little push to help him get started along the way. Just as in any congregation we have a few "Model A's" who need a little help getting on the move again. If you know of someone who is losing interest in the church — or someone who is mired up to his axles in personal problems — offer him a little encouragement. Just think — without your push, he may lose his soul
- Unknown

SUNDAY'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"Be At Peace!"* (text: Rom. 12:17-18); Sunday evening: Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – *Healing Two Demoniacs!* (Mark 5:1-20).