

## Love and Envy

By Boyd Yahn

Good day everyone, it is February 28, 2022 as I sit down to record this message and the title is something that I wanted to address; I don't feel qualified to address it, but it is terribly important and I think that it needs to be done.

0:00:22

The title of the message is Love and Envy, and as you know we are rapidly sneaking up on the spring holy days and the usual means of when that might be invariably rise up and begin to be the topic of the day.

0:00:39

I was looking back at some of the stuff I was working on a year ago, in terms of phrases that were used and descriptors that I might have used at the time. But you know, I wouldn't even use those now. And so, it should be if indeed there is a learning curve in place.

0:00:58

One such place I noticed was in the Jerusalem Chronicles five synopsis on the Short Work Site, where I had used the phrase, "Feast of Trumpets." I know better now. Trumpets is a modem but it is not a feast and there is no resurrection on Trumpets.

0:01:16

The importance of Jerusalem in God's plan has grown tremendously in the last year and Mark has devoted two recent studies to this. And now we see it, and we see where it goes, that it is not millennial as proposed for decades. Isaiah 60 is but one place where Jerusalem's restoration is spoken of at length and there are more and we can now see them and where they go. Thank God for that.

0:01:49

The learning curve is steep indeed and there doesn't seem to be any indication that the train is slowing down. A year ago there was a discussion as to whether the month begins with local observation or Jerusalem observation. For some months after paying close attention to that very thing, it appears there is no difference whatsoever from my location. I didn't know that.

0:02:19

The crescent is seen in Jerusalem and we see it here eight hours later as a confirmation. That might not be true at your location, but for us here, it is the same. Arguing a local or Jerusalem sighting is like arguing each side of the same coin. And would Satan have us to do so? Well of course he would, and he would be successful and that's a shame.

0:02:50

Recently I had asked several acquaintances who I've, who walked in the halls of the COG (Church of God) if they had ever seen or observed envy in the spirit of those who they associated with? It had been my experience to notice that it was a, if not the

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principle driver, of the actions and reactions of people, within them, who considered themselves part of the ecclesia.

0:03:20

In Ecclesiastes 4:4 Solomon made a mental note and it is recorded for our edification and understanding. He saw:

*<sup>4</sup>... that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.*

0:03:41

The mindset of envy is useless and to a person, I might not have called enough people in my limited survey, both he-males and she-males, answered resoundingly; Yes! Some even laughed when I asked the question, as it was so obvious to them that it was so. So, why is it amongst the ecclesia, who should actually know better you would think, that this is indeed so.

0:04:18

Great energy is used up this time of year discussing the when of the holydays, appointed times, when are they actually going to be happening, and that is important. Yet there is a glaring neglect of the spirit of those who do so.

0:04:35

Some of the back and forth can be right cantankerous, and it really shouldn't be so. As long as you get the day right, physical, it doesn't seem to matter if your mental disposition is full of envy, malice or hypocrisy. That, somehow just doesn't matter, it's secondary. Getting that day right; and there is so much more emphasis placed on the physical than on the spiritual.

0:05:07

Is this a case of look here, don't look there, is it an accident or a diversion? You have to wonder? You look at the religious leaders of the day in Christ's time who had quote, unquote "the truth" and they sought to kill the truth, when He showed up.

0:05:38

And what was their principal driver? What really drove them? These guys had the holydays, they had the clean and unclean meats; they had a lot of the things we would identify with as people who are actually part of the ecclesia. And yet these same people, we are going to read about that, how they behaved when the truth was right in front of their eyes; it's rather sickening.

0:06:12

Matthew 27, verse 15 – 23

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<sup>15</sup>Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. <sup>16</sup>And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" <sup>18</sup>For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

0:06:40

If we don't think that is a powerful emotional driver of our conduct, we are sadly mistaken.

<sup>19</sup>While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." <sup>20</sup>But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes

0:07:03

So, it was the religious leaders, those that had the holydays, and had all the things that we would recognize.

that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Christ. <sup>21</sup>The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

0:07:30

Here you have the religious leaders who knew that Christ was sent from God Himself to teach them; in the Nicodemus account we know that, and they killed Him. If envy is a principle driver for us, Satan can play us like a Stradivarius. Are we comfortable with that in our spirit? Should we be?

0:07:58

Again, you know, the custom and tradition, in the Church of God, at least that I have observed, is we look for the obedience to the law, the Sabbath, the holydays, the clean and unclean thing and the tithing laws, etc, etc. Ah, as an identifier of who are actually those whom we would consider the disciples of Christ. This was pointed out to me by a friend and it's always been those outliers that were the things that we looked at.

0:08:30

Well, Christ looked a little deeper than that, and we read about that actually in John 8, verses 31 – 47. So:

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to those (This is John 8:31) Jews who believed Him,

Obviously there was a connection there.

*"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."*

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Here He is defining disciples.

*<sup>32</sup>And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free’?” <sup>34</sup>Christ answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup>And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. <sup>36</sup>Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

0:09:30

He was pointing out to them that they were in fact slaves to sin regardless to their spiritual or physical lineage.

*<sup>37</sup>“I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me,*

0:09:43

He looked to their spirit.

*because My word has no place in you. <sup>38</sup>I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.”*

0:09:55

Even though they had the physical things down, they were out to kill Christ. Well, how does that compute?

*<sup>39</sup>They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Christ said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. <sup>40</sup>But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. <sup>41</sup>You do the deeds of your father. ” Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication;*

0:10:23

You know, a little put down here, where’s your dad?

*we have one Father—God.” <sup>42</sup>Christ said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. <sup>43</sup>Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. <sup>44</sup>You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. <sup>45</sup>But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. <sup>46</sup>Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? <sup>47</sup>He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore, you do not hear, because you are not of God.”*

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Christ looked to their spirit, He did not look to the physical things that they did specifically, He looked deeper and so must we. We simply have to have a deeper comprehension of what this is all about.

0:11:43

There is a remarkable passage in I Corinthians 13:4 and I Corinthians 13:4 is filled with “is’s ” and “are’s”. As I mentioned before, when you see is’s and are’s in the scripture, it’s time to sit up and pay attention because God is defining things for us. We need to listen!

*<sup>4</sup>Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy;*

0:12:18

Love and envy are opposites! One is of God; one is of Satan. If love does not envy and we allow envy in our spirit, in our mental disposition, can we love God in reality? Can we love our brother and keep the second great commandment? Was Satan envious of God’s position and coveted it? Does a hierarchical structure foster envy or does it deny it? These are all questions that we need to consider.

0:12:08

If love does not envy and we allow envy to be part of our makeup, are we truly capable of love? And the answer would seem obvious; no, we’re not! If we go to Matthew 23, verses 1 – 12.

*<sup>1</sup> Then Yeshua spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat.*

0:13:34

They were the leaders of the day.

*<sup>3</sup> Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.*

0:13:45

They’re hypocrites!

*<sup>4</sup>For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. <sup>5</sup>But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. <sup>6</sup>They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup>greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ <sup>8</sup>But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.*

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He is talking to his disciples and to the multitudes. You notice the playing field is a little flat.

*<sup>9</sup>Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. <sup>10</sup>And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. <sup>11</sup>But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. <sup>12</sup>And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

0:14:52

And have we seen, just in our community and the world, those who would seek to exalt themselves? Get that pyramid in place. Christ taught the very opposite of the hierarchical structure we see in all the various human organizations, not only in the COG. It is a structure designed to foster envy; who would have thought!

0:15:22

If we go to I John 4; I John 4:20 we read something that helps us in our study as we begin to look at some of these things. If we, as the Pharisees of today embrace the precepts of the mind of Satan, can we love God or our brethren in any sense of the scope of the word love? Well, we actually have an answer to that. I John 4:20, I John 4:20 says:

*<sup>20</sup>If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother,*

0:15:58

It's automatic!

*he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*

0:16:11

You notice, it's very, very clear. For this love or envy is very, very important that we grasp. If we go back to I Corinthians 13; I would just like to review that whole passage if I can. Each proclivity that is mentioned and we are going to read I Corinthians 13, 4 – 8; each proclivity is of our spirit. Is it possible that we fail in our life conduct because we do not love? God through Paul here shows us what it looks like.

0:16:59

When we look in the mirror what do we see? Do we see the personification of love? Christ was, and we are to become Christ like, are we not? So let's look at this:

*<sup>4</sup>Love suffers long, (Is patient!) and is kind;*

Is that how our spirit racks up?

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*love does not envy;*

0:17:30

And yet by the testimony of the people I talked to, the Church of God is filled with envy in the spirit.

*love does not parade itself,*

So do we parade ourselves?

*is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup>does not behave rudely,*

0:17:52

Have any of us been participants in rude behavior? Have we been the instigators of rude behavior? You notice all of these things are part of our mental disposition. These are all things of our spirit.

*(Love) does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;*

0:18:20

Are these not all choices that we make and the responses that we do as we live life?

*(Love) <sup>6</sup>does not rejoice in iniquity,*

So when we see evil do we rejoice in that?

*but (love) rejoices in the truth;*

0:18:38

Are these not personal, at the very center of our being, decisions that we must make in favor of love?

*(it) <sup>7</sup>bears all things, believes all things,*

When God tells us something in the scriptures, do we believe it? The love of God does.

*hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never fails.*

0:19:08

I fail; do you fail? And is it because our concept of love and our practice of it, is not where it should be? Can we look into the mirror and see a reflection of the proclivities we just read? Those are choices that we make. We are told in scripture to test the spirits, the mental dispositions of people, to see if they are of God.

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Well, if they exhibited the proclivities that we see in I Corinthians 13:4 – 8, the answer would be, of course! But how often do we dare to look that close? Do we do that? And yet we are admonished to do that:

*<sup>1</sup> Beloved, (It says in I John 4:1) do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God;*

0:20:22

Would you expect someone who has adopted holiness as a way of life to be on board with those definitions that we read of in I Corinthians 13? We're pointed to the spiritual and yet we look generally to the physical. We've got that backwards. We need to fix that. We need to move towards the mind pointed out in I Corinthians 13:4 and look for such minds as evidence of God's ecclesia.

0:21:02

How do we think the sort would go if we did such a thing? Would the tares become visible pretty quick? Would we like what we saw in the mirror? We have been misdirected in our focus; Christ was not!

0:21:24

He looked at the spirit of those He interacted with to know who they were working for. Even if they did all those physical things and maybe even did them right? We might consider doing the same; in fact, I believe it's imperative that we do.

0:21:44

If we embrace God's definition of love as in I Corinthians 13:4, it means a renewal of our mind; it is we ourselves who put that in motion. It is a choice and a very personal choice at that.

0:22:05

We can read of that in Ephesians 4; Ephesians 4 verses 20 – 32.

*<sup>20</sup>But you have not so learned in Christ,*

So the teaching was in place back then.

*<sup>21</sup>if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

0:22:25

Christ lived that!

*<sup>22</sup>that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup>and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*



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Envy can no longer be a driver to us.

*<sup>24</sup>and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. <sup>25</sup>Therefore,*

0:22:54

It goes on.

*putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, <sup>27</sup>nor give place to the devil. <sup>28</sup>Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. <sup>29</sup>Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,*

0:23:31

Which God's ecclesia have.

*by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*

He does not say that lightly!

*<sup>32</sup>And be kind to one another,*

You know, I Corinthians 13:4, "love is kind"

*tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

0:24:02

If we go to Galatians 5: 16 – 26; Galatians 5:16 - 26 we can see exactly the same thing. This is not hidden from us; our directions are quite clear. In Galatians 5: 16 it says:

*<sup>16</sup>I say then: Walk in the Spirit,*

0:24:26

The spirit of holiness!

*and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

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Now it walks through the works of the flesh and it's all about your spirit, your personal mental disposition. Do you choose love, as God defines it, or do you choose envy and all the wonderful things that go along with that? What do you and I allow in our minds?

*<sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>envy, murders, drunkenness, ...*

0:25:26

And on and on; people practice such things, who allow those things in their spirit, into their way of thinking, will not inherit the kingdom of God.

*<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit*

0:25:42

Isn't that what we are looking for?

*is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control.*

0:25:52

So, we need to look for those things in ourselves and in others to recognize God's ecclesia when we see them.

*Against such there is no law.*

0:26:05

That's where we are supposed to go. We're directed to go to these places; it's very clear. Yet, do we? Are you and I at the bar? Am I at the bar? Are you at the bar? We know where the bar is; we just read where the bar is. Do we wish to reach for it? Or are we content with the Sabbath and holidays and clean and unclean and just like the Pharisees back in the day? There is a mindset that we might consider embracing should we seek to move ahead in our calling, and it is mentioned in the book of Hebrews.

0:26:54

In Hebrews 11, verse 6. It is very important for us, because if we want to move towards the mind driven by love as opposed to driven by envy, we might want to take this into consideration. In Hebrews 11:6 it says:

*<sup>6</sup>... without faith it is impossible to (believe) Him,*

0:27:16

Because we read things in scripture about what God is going to do and we think, well maybe, maybe not so much, I don't believe that. No, no we need to believe it.

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We have to have faith in God.

*for he who comes to God*

And the ecclesia are part of that.

*must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

0:27:39

It is a springboard for what I believe to be a must for those who seek to be a barley. Without it, our choices and our chances would seem to be much less. If you were God, is this something you would look for in your children? Would you look for somebody that actually believes you exist and believes that there is a rewarder, that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek their Father? I think that's obvious.

0:28:19

Do we, you and I believe that God will reward us when we diligently seek Him? Satan would seek to have us believe that God isn't, as opposed to God is, and that God does not reward those who diligently seek Him. You know, we should be able to look for the opposites and find it referenced so we can understand the mind of our enemy.

0:28:50

Malachi 3, verses 13 – 18. You can see this and look for the influencer of the mind of the people who would think that way. Malachi 3:13:

*<sup>13</sup>“Your words have been harsh against Me,” Says Yehovah, “Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’*

0:29:08

God says;

*<sup>14</sup>You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God;*

Do these people think He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him? Apparently not! Looks like Satan has been rather successful.

0:29:20

*what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners before Yehovah of hosts? <sup>15</sup>So now we call the proud blessed, for those who do wickedness are raised up; they even tempt the Lord and go free.” <sup>16</sup>Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so, a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name. <sup>17</sup>“They shall be Mine,” says the Lord of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his*

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*own son who serves him.”<sup>18</sup>Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.*

0:30:05

So, it shouldn't come as any surprise that a lot of people just don't believe there is a God and for certain He doesn't reward people who follow Him. If we diligently seek God, and God is love, when God defines love for us, shows us what He wants from those who would diligently seek Him, would we actually follow those directives?

0:30:31

It would seem important that we should, but do we actually do that? Do we take those things into consideration? Do we believe God when He tells us, "Hey, I'd like some of this stuff done." Well, let's look at this again; I touched on this briefly recently in Romans 12, verses 1 and 2. Paul understood this, he said:

*<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.  
<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

0:31:20

Is it God's will that we jettison the things that poison our minds, our spirits, and stop us from loving? Would that make sense that He would want us to fix that once we come to understand that there actually is a problem? Well let's read I Peter 2 again. I Peter 2, verses 1 and 2:

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,  
<sup>2</sup> as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

0:32:01

We've got to remove, these are not suggestions, these are commands. We have to remove from our spirit the things that would defile it, and so seek the reward of those that do similar. This is a personal choice. Do you think that God would regard the folks that do as worthy of the barley harvest?

0:32:28

What do you think God would think of those who knew to do and didn't do? Again, I Peter 2, 1 and 2. It's not an idle suggestion! We cannot be holy unless we do. Do we actually want that? Let's look at some scriptures to show that this isn't a one off. This is real and this is actually going to happen.

0:33:00

If we go to Isaiah 11; a passage that we have been bouncing around in a fair bit lately in a number of topics, but I would like to focus here on Isaiah 11 and what it says

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specifically about envy. This is in the kingdom of God we've now come to understand. Isaiah 11, verse 13:

<sup>13</sup>... *the envy of Ephraim shall depart,*

0:33:25

In the kingdom of God, the mind of Ephraim will no longer be poisoned with envy.

*and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim*

0:33:41

So, we get a glimpse of what it is going to be like in the kingdom of God when these things that are the principal drivers of our spirit are simply gone, they're done away with. They will not be part of our makeup anymore; God speed that day actually. Ezekiel 35, we'll take a look at verses 10 and 11. Ezekiel 35, verses 10 and 11:

<sup>10</sup>*"Because you have said,*

0:34:13

Speaking of some of the nations, Edomites that actually surrounded the Holy Land.

*'These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess them,' although the Lord was there,*

0:34:25

So, notice there, well what's their driver, what makes them tick?

<sup>11</sup>*therefore, as I live," says the Lord God, "I will do according to your anger and according to the envy which you showed in your hatred against them;*

So here we see again how it's able to drive a whole nation, a whole group of people, to do things that are wicked and evil. And this is not a one off.

0:34:58

Let's go to Acts 7, verse 9 where it says:

<sup>9</sup>*"And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt.*

So they took their own brother and put him in the bottom of the well; we all know the story, and they could have cared less if he lived or died, because they were envious of him. Is that the kind of love that we think is appropriate?

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0:35:28

Acts 13; Acts 13, verses 44 and 45, we take a look at that. Acts 13, verses 44 and 45. In Paul's day:

*<sup>44</sup>On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.*

*<sup>45</sup>But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy;*

0:35:54

Was that a driver of their behavior as it was for the religious leaders to kill Christ? Well, it sure looks like it to me.

*and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.*

Who were they working for when they allowed envy to direct their steps? I don't think we have to think that thing through particularly hard to figure that out.

0:36:24

Acts 17, verses 5 – 7, Acts 17, verses 5 – 7

*<sup>5</sup>But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. <sup>6</sup>But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. <sup>7</sup>Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus."*

0:37:10

*What was the driver to their illicit behavior? Was it not envy? And when we contrast that to the proclivities of love that we looked at in I Corinthians 13:4, it is stark indeed. If we go to Romans 1; Romans 1, verses 28 – 31*

*<sup>28</sup>And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind,*

0:37:36

Rather than a holy mind!

*to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup>being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, <sup>30</sup>backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup>who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death,*

## Love and Envy

By Boyd Yahn

0:38:11

They understand that intellectually.

*not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

Well, talk about a complete distortion of the human spirit. When we buy into those things, feed off them, it leads to some horrendous things.

0:38:36

And one more example for you; in the book of Titus. Titus 3, verses 3 – 7. And we see this showing up over and over again. Where Paul is speaking here and he says:

*<sup>3</sup>For we ourselves (in the past) were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, (wallowing in it) hateful and hating one another.*

0:39:04

To our shame, do we see that amongst God's people? Ask yourself that question.

*<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup>not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy (we were a mess) He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*

0:39:31

Rather than not having a defiled spirit, we were given a holy spirit, access to what that is.

*<sup>6</sup>whom He poured out on us abundantly through Christ Jesus our Savior,*

0:39:44

That's all part of the process. You know, some time ago I had read from the thesaurus on envy, and most of us think we actually know what that means; oh yeah, yeah, I know what that is. Well, I'd like to just read from it again at the point of, what are we going to do with this? It's real! When we look up the antonyms of envy can we not see it is exactly the same as the Spirit of God? Of what love actually is.

0:40:26

Here is the antonyms, the very opposite of envy: friendliness, liking, love, loving, comfort, confidence, contentedness, good will, (as opposed to ill will), kindness and pleasure. Would we not recognize that as the spirit of God? The very opposite of envy; I think so.

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0:41:12

How much of our spirit is defiled; that prevents us from going where we need to go? To allow the Spirit of God and all the right side to come to the front as we push the other away and cleanse ourselves.

0:41:33

Here are some of the synonyms for Envy, and consider this then when we look in the mirror to see what it is we see. The synonyms for envy are: bitterness, hatred, ill will, jealousy, malice, prejudice, resentment, rivalries, and begrudging.

0:42:02

Have you and I ever seen any of those proclivities in those who would call themselves God's ecclesia? What do you think? Going on, you can see the relationship of this to many other ills; this is the mind of Satan.

0:42:28

Backbiting, coveting, enviousness, grudging, malevolence, maliciousness, spite, grudgingness, the jaundiced eye, resentfulness; have we seen that in ourselves and others who claim to be the ecclesia? What will you and I choose as the main driver of our spirit? Love, as perceived from the mind of God or envy, as perceived from the mind of Satan? Sobering things to consider as we approach the spring holydays!

0:43:14

I'd like to close with II Corinthians 7:1, II Corinthians 7:1 and you would almost think, at least in my experience, that somehow, we just, I certainly didn't give it the time of day, yet there it is large as life. II Corinthians 7:1.

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having these promises,*

All the wonderful things God has promised those of us who diligently seek Him.

*beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh*

0:43:48

Yes, that has to be looked at too.

*and (the)spirit,*

0:43:56

Our spirit! Do we have the things of envy in our mind? Do we recognize the poison that it is? And how it prevents our growth toward the holiness that our Father would have us to become. Maybe it's high time we looked at our spirits and the shape they are in and do some spiritual deleavening. I rather strongly suspect that God would be looking for that in His barley; if indeed we seek to be barley.