

Proverbs: Lessons from the Wisdom of Solomon
Seven Deadly Sins: Envy
Proverbs 14:30

We all have struggled or are struggling with envy. We have all thought and done dumb things out of a spirit of envy or jealousy. We discover very quickly in life that our hearts easily succumb to envy and jealousy. We are jealous of the “teacher’s pet.” We accuse our bosses of favoritism when someone else gets the promotion. Envy affects our attitudes towards others because they have what we want, and it causes us to violate the Great Commandment, to love others.

1. Envy and jealousy will _____ us.
2. Envy and jealousy will _____ those around us.
3. Envy and jealousy are _____ sins.
4. Envy and jealousy will be _____ by God.

We have all been jealous and envious at some time or another. But Jesus never was and at the cross He removes the power that envy and jealousy have over us. He forgives us of our envious attitudes and empowers us to live a life free from envy. As we have seen throughout Proverbs foolishness is always a faith issue, and our problem is not one of effort but belief. We need to believe that our future hope in Christ is much greater than what others have right now.

Reflection

What are some ways that we get jealous? What are some circumstances where we can be jealous in a good way? Practically, how does jealousy protect our marriages? Think of ways that jealousy and envy have hurt you in the past and how that affected your emotional state and that of those around you. How can we fight against being envious of wicked people? How does believing in the gospel free you from envy?