

A Marriage Minute™

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.

"... love is kind. It does not envy, --1 Corinthians 13:4



I remember my days as a younger preacher, how I would look at T.V. evangelists with their large followings, and think to myself, "Someday..." I thought it was all right to pastor a "small" church, as long as it would lead to getting a much larger ministry down the road. By envying others, and coveting what I didn't have, I truly missed out on the joy of knowing what I did have. That's the problem with envy. It distracts you from enjoying what you have by getting you to fantasize over what you don't have. Envy will not only steal your joy, but it will turn it into grumbling, and eventually, into anger. You will begin to believe that you actually deserve more than what you have, and circumstances, or maybe other people, are keeping you from what you think you deserve. You will come to resent others or your circumstances. You'll be miserable. Envy keeps us from knowing the joy of the now, the God of the now. Today, when our family sits around the table for dinner, and the conversation gets downright hilarious, I often become overwhelmed with joy, thinking of the love that we have in our home. We have no big T.V. ministry, no big church, no big home or fancy car, but what we have is love. What joy! There's no sense of envy. I already have more than what I deserve. Why miss the joy of the now? Life is too short. Thank God I don't have what I deserve, or I'd be burning in hell about now. As Paul said, "I have learned to be content in whatever state I'm in." It took me a while to learn that lesson. It's my prayer for you that you'll be just a little quicker to learn than I was.

Question for dialogue: "What are some of the things we find ourselves coveting? Who do we envy, and why?"

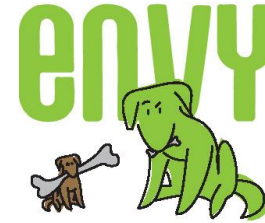
Prayer for both of us: "Lord, help us to focus on the now; to be grateful for what we have, instead of envying others. Help us to realize that if all we have is Jesus, we already have more than we deserve

*This Couples Devotional is brought to you by Marriage & Family Savers Institute.
Visit them at www.marriageandfamily.org*

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