

EVICTING ENVY FROM YOUR HEART

The Life You Were Meant to Live
Rick Warren

"Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

"YOU SHALL NOT COVET!" Exodus 20:17

HOW ENVY CAUSES ME TO MISS THE PURPOSE OF MY LIFE

1.

"God, you knit me together in my mother's womb . . . Your workmanship is marvelous . . . You watched me as I was formed in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."

Psalms 139:13-16 (NLT)

"Who are you, a mere human being, to criticize God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who made it 'Why have you made me like this?'"

Romans 9:20 (NLT)

2.

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24

"Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 9:62 (TLB)

3.

"I've learned why people work so hard to succeed; it is because they envy the things their neighbors have. But this is foolishness, like chasing the wind . . . Here is someone who lives alone. He has no child or brother, yet he is always working, never satisfied with what he has. Yet he never asks, 'For whom am I working so hard . . . ?' This is useless, too—and a miserable way to live."

Ecclesiastes 4:4, 8 (TEV)

4.

"For wherever there is envy and rivalry there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony) and every kind of evil." James 3:16 (AMP)

HOW TO EVICT ENVY

Jesus' Story of the Vineyard Workers (Matt. 20)

1.

"Those hired last came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more."

Matthew 20:9-10 (The Message)

"Let everyone be sure to do his very best, for then he will have the personal satisfaction of work done well, and won't need to compare himself with someone else." Galatians 6:4 (TLB)

2.

"The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard . . . He said 'Are you envious because I am generous to them?'"

Matthew 20:10-11, 15 (CEV/NIV)

"Love does not envy." 1 Corinthians 13:4

3.

"Isn't everything you have and everything you are sheer gifts from God? So what's the point of all this comparing and competing? You already have all you need!"

1 Corinthians 4:7-8 (The Message)

"It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else." Ecclesiastes 6:9 (GNT)

4.

"These last workers put in only one easy hour, and yet you have made them equal to us—we who slaved all day under a scorching sun!"

Matthew 20:12 (The Message)

The Owner: *"Friends, I'm not being unfair! I paid you exactly what we agreed on. Take your part and go! What business is it of yours if I want to pay others the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?"*

Matthew 20:13-15

"Let us run with patience the particular race God has set before us."

Hebrews 12:1 (TLB)

ONE DAY: THE GREAT REVERSAL

"And so it is, that many who are first now will be last then; and those who are last now will be first then." Matthew 20:16 (NLT)