

September 3, 2023 - All You Need is Love! Love Does Not Envy

Feel free to pick and choose some of the questions below to engage with together as a group. Be sure to spend some time going over the Top 3 things your group members need to know.

Connect:

Robert opened by sharing 3 types of comparison: material comparison, relational comparison, and circumstantial comparison. Which do you feel like you struggle with the most and why?

Do you find yourself unable to rejoice in what others have because you feel it's unfair that you don't have it?

Engage:

Read: 1 Corinthians 13 CSB Robert defined envy as wanting what you don't have, feeling like what you have is not enough, and resenting what others seem to have. Envy is fueled by comparison and is coupled with strife. Envy is destructive and serves no purpose but to tear down and breed bitterness and resentment. It is no wonder that the first thing that love is not is envious. How have you seen envy be a destructive force in your life or others' lives?

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:3 CSB Our culture promotes envy in a variety of ways, encouraging us to look up to those who have more power, status, possessions, or happiness than we do, but a non-envious love is manifest in those who are content in their circumstances. How are we still worldly in our envy? How can we be more content in our circumstances?

Read: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 CSB Competition can be good and healthy. However, it can be easy for us to see PEOPLE as our competition. How do you view other people as your "competition?"

Robert spoke of two groups of people: people within your circle of oneness and people within your circle of rivals. You cannot control your feelings concerning these groups, but you can control how you manage those feelings. Praying for people that are in your circle of rivals will foster love and begin to defeat envy. What makes it challenging for us to pray for our rivals, and how can we pray for them in a way that honors the Lord and defeats envy?

Read: Proverbs 14:30 When we crave what someone else has rather than being grateful for what God has given, we hurt ourselves. How have you seen the Lord change your heart and move you through seasons of envy from this "rotting" of the heart to the joy He has set before you?

Apply:

How do you live life and keep score? Christ invites us to live life in a counter-culture entirely different way. How can we change the scorecard and move into a life lived in love and not envy?

Peace is a fruit of the spirit. Envy can steal your PEACE. In what ways can you seek out His peace this week?

We are told to rejoice with those who rejoice (Rom. 12:15), and we cannot do this if we are jealous of the blessings of others. How can we celebrate others this week?

Top 3:

Back to TWO services next Sunday.

We look forward to being back to two services next Sunday, September 10. Kid's Open House is next Sunday. If you have a child in Kid's programming, you will want to stop by your child's group room before each service to meet their teachers and the fellow parents of the kids in your child's Sunday class.

Serve Day | September 23

Serve Day is a day when people from Fondren Church serve alongside ministries all over the Jackson-Metro. We have ways for people of all ages and abilities to make a difference together. Check out the sign-up form at: <https://fcconnect.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/377/responses/new> to view the options to serve our community together and choose what best suits you or your group.

Membership Class | September 24 after the 11am Worship Service

Membership is a way for our church leadership and church members to make promises to one another as we seek God's best for Fondren Church together. The first step in becoming a member is to attend a membership class. In the class, you'll learn more about the history of our church, our leadership structures, and the ways we promise to care for you as a church member. You can sign up and get more information at fondrenchurch.com/events.