

Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Cardinal Virtues

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ENVY

What is envy?

- Definition
- Corollary: *Schadenfreude*
- Related concepts: covetousness, emulation

Examples

- Sports, school
- Mozart and Salieri
- Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:3-8) (also Jacob and Esau, Leah and Rachel, Isaac and Ishmael, Joseph and his brothers)

Characteristics

- Often the result of laziness
- Often associated with Anger (Cain and Abel, Saul and David)
- Associated with many sins of the tongue

Problems and consequences

- Shows lack of love for neighbor
- Reveals ingratitude toward God
- Destroys Christian community (Rom. 13:13; 2 Cor. 12:20; 1 Tim. 6:4)
- Makes the envier miserable

*And next to him malicious Envy rode,
Upon a ravenous wolf, and still did chaw
Between his canker'd teeth a venomous toad,
That all the poison ran about his jaw.
But inwardly he chawed his own maw,
At neighbor's wealth, that made him ever sad;
For death it was when any good he saw,
And wept that no cause of weeping more he had,
And when he heard of harm, he waxed wondrous glad.*

— Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queen*, 1.4.30

Overcoming envy

- Learn to love excellence for its own sake

Old proverb (author unknown):

*I love a thing that's fine
Even when it is not mine
And though it never mine can be
Yet it delights and gladdens me.*

- Count your blessings
- Other ways?