Envy

Closest Daughter of pride

ENVY: Resentment or sadness at another's good fortune. Of the seven capital sins, envy is contrary to the tenth commandment (2539). Envy is not quite the same as jealousy. Jealously seeks another advantage for oneself while envy tries to destroy another advantage. Jealousy can be good depending on what one is actually desiring. St. Paul wrote that his apostolate was to make his fellow Jews jealous of Christians — not so that they would persecute and try to destroy them (as in envy) but so that they would seek the spiritual advantages of conversion to Christ (see Romans 11:15).

At the bottom of Mount purgatory – heavy place in spiritual Life

Definition:

Envy is sorrow at another person’s good. (St. Thomas Aquinas)

When a friend of mine succeeds, something in me dies (An American Novelist)

We are all in the same boat we are all sea sick (GK Chesterton) – being human we all are vulnerable to pride and therefore to envy.

We are prideful and so we are envious.

I got to get the attention – therefore when a friend of mine succeeds, something in me dies

It is an exquisite experience – not when someone half the way around the world succeeds, but when someone close to me succeeds, something in me dies.

It is also taking pleasure in someone else’s failure or problem.
We are all curious to hear about someone failure while not so enthusiastic about their success.

**Where does it come from? – Fear - Fear is the root of sins**

I forget that I am loved into being by God and that I have a mission to live an adventurous life in the Holy Spirit.

So, and envious person seeks praise, admiration and glory to oneself

When other people get it, it makes me Sad.

Sorrow at someone else’s good.

**Biblical Examples:**

- **Cane Killed Abel** due to envy
- **Jacob – Esau** – Jacob was envious of his brother and robbed him off his price – birth right
- **Other brothers are envious of Joseph** and throws in the well and then sells him to slavery in Egypt
- **Saul is envious of David** and pursues to kill him
- **Other disciples are envious of James and John**
- **Prodigal Son and his older brother** – The older brother is envious of the younger one’s conversion.

**Here we see again why deadly sins are also called Capital Sins**

They lead to other sins like murder, jealous, attack, violence, retribution, attack.

**In the literature of the world envy leads many story lines**
Williams Shakespeare Novels are prime examples:

**Othello – Lago** is consumed by the success of Othello and drives him to do all kinds of nepherious business

**Macbeth** is jealous of Duncan’s success and leads him to murder.

Story after story in the Bible, World literature and in our stories are driven by the sin of Envy.

*It is the daughter of pride because I am comparing myself to other and I find myself lacking*

If I stop looking at me for 5 minutes, I won’t be envious

How does Dante punish the envious? -

They are sitting on the edge of the mountain and their eye-lids are sawn shut. Because they spent all their life looking at themselves.

What follows from envy is scapegoating

We try to undermine them

We blame them

Isolate them and form little dysfunctional communities – and attack

We want to bring them down

**The Mystical Body is damaged:**

In Envy we forget that we are the mystical body of Christ and we are interconnected. We forget that God loves us into existence and we need each other. It is tearing apart the body and it is ultimately self destructive.

We are ontological siblings. When you succeed I succeed. When you suffer I suffer.
Antidote to Envy:

Admiration —

Look at people with Admiration.

All of us are here because of a gracious God.

In all of our success we bring forth the goodness of God.

God is the foundation of all blessings.

All the gifts we have come from God.

Our intellect, will, gifts all belong to God.

God is the foundation

So why play the game of comparison?

Isaiah: it is you O Lord who has accomplished all that we have done.

Envy comes from our comparison to others instead of living he gift God has given to us.

Practical Advice:

Go out of your way to praise a person you are envious off.

Make a phone call. Write a letter, e-mail appreciating and praising a person you are envious of. Send a Text message of appreciation.

In the scapegoatting group – put a wrench in there by putting a word of praise for the person.

The world is full of inequalities – not all of us are equally gifted, beautiful etc.
But all are on a unique mission. Take pride in your mission

**Marion Example: from the Life of Mary**

Wedding Feast at Cana – They were running out of Wine. Mary did not take pleasure in someone’s shame or failure. Instead she interceded with the Lord to provide for their need.

Let us not take Joy in someone’s failure but show great love by showing them admiration when they succeed and encourage them when they fail.