

Sunday, December 9, 2018—Body Building: Envyng One Another

### Introduction

- Ephesians 4:16—the body of Christ was designed to edify itself. The focus of our current series has been on the self-edifying nature of the body of Christ. How does the body edify itself?
- Romans 12:5—in our first study in this series, I introduced you to a concept that I am calling the one-anothering principle. The phrase “one of another” is a translation of a plural pronoun which means: “reciprocally” or “mutually.”
  - Reciprocal—“Mutual; done by each to the other” (Webster’s 1828)
  - Reciprocally—“Mutually; interchangeably; in such a manner that each affects the other and is equally affected by it.” (Webster’s 1828)
- Thus far we have observed the following one-anotherings:
  - Kindly affectioned one to another (Rom. 12:10)
  - Preferring one another (Rom. 12:10)
  - Not judge one another (Rom. 14:13)
  - Likeminded one toward another (Rom. 15:5)
  - Receive ye one another (Rom. 15:7)
  - Admonish one another (Rom. 15:14)
  - Salute one another with a holy kiss (Rom. 16:16)
  - Same care one for another (I Cor. 12:25)
  - By love serve one another (Gal. 4:14)
  - **Should not** be biting, devouring, and consuming one another (Gal. 5:15)
  - **Should not** be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, or envying one another (Gal. 5:26)
- Last Sunday we were studying the two one-anothering statements in Galatians 5:26. In doing so, we looked at the context of Galatians 5 and Paul’s discussion of the works of the flesh and the

fruit of the Spirit. Specifically, we consider the statements about “vain glory” and not “provoking one another,” in Gal. 5:26.

- *Vain glory*—the flesh produces a desire within us for “vain glory” that is exactly the opposite of how believers ought to function.
  - Philippians 2:3—“vainglory” means “exclusive vanity excited by one's own performances; empty pride; undue elation of mind.”
- *Provoking one another*— as believers we are not to be doing things on purpose that we know other saints don't like and appreciate as a means of provoking them. It is “vain glory” and a desire to serve one's own motives and agenda that provokes other saints.

### **Galatians 5:26**

- *Envy* *One Another*—is dealing with “feeling uneasiness at the superior condition and happiness of another” or “mortification experienced at the supposed prosperity and happiness of another.”
  - Galatians 5:21—“ill will at others, on account of some supposed superiority.”
    - Envy—“to feel uneasiness, mortification or discontent, at the sight of superior excellence, reputation or happiness enjoyed by another; to repine at another's prosperity; to fret or grieve one's self at the real or supposed superiority of another, **and to hate him on that account.**”
    - To grudge; to withhold maliciously.
- Envy is the sin of jealousy over the blessings and achievements of others. The scriptures have a lot to say about “envy.”
- Genesis 37—Joseph's brothers hated him.
  - Acts 7:9—envy caused Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery in Egypt.
- Job 5:2; Proverbs 14:30—envy inevitably leads to personal harm and debilitation, it affects one's physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being.
- Proverbs 27:4—unchecked, envy gradually leads to a destructive and remorseful way of life.
- Mark 15:10—envy caused the chief priest to turn Christ over to Pilate. Notice how envy caused the leadership of Israel to treat Christ the same way Joseph's brothers treated him.

- Acts 13:45; 17:5—envy caused the Jews to rebel against Paul’s preaching and to threaten his life.
- Romans 1:29—envy is part of natural flesh programming before we were saved. As a sin of the flesh, envy characterizes the lives of the unregenerate. Envy is one of the traits of the Christian’s former way of life.
  - Romans 13:8-14
  - Titus 3:3
- II Corinthians 12:20
- I Timothy 6:4—envy is a result of unsound doctrine.
- James 3:14, 16—the unregenerate nature ever tends towards envy, manifesting the unbelievers rejecting of God, his truth, and his will for human conduct.
- Galatians 5:26—envying another saint is the exact opposite of what we have seen thus far in this series of studies.
  - Kindly affectioned one to another (Rom. 12:10)
  - Preferring one another (Rom. 12:10)
  - Likeminded one toward another (Rom. 15:5)
  - Same care one for another (I Cor. 12:25)
  - By love serve one another (Gal. 4:14)

### **Conclusion**

- There are two triads of fleshly behavior or ways that believers should not be treating one another identified in Galatians 5.
  - Galatians 5:15—biting, devouring, and consuming one another
  - Galatians 5:26—desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, and envying one another
- These fleshly behaviors are contrasted in the context by Paul’s instructions to “by love serve one another” and walk in the Spirit thereby manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.
  - Galatians 5:13—“but by love serve one another”

- Galatians 5:22—the first fruit of the of the Spirit is love.
- Only the Spirit of God working in the believer is going to cause that believer to serve the interests of someone else by love.
- I Corinthians 13:4-5—read these verses in light of what we have been studying in Gal. 5:26. Walking in charity, the more excellent way, is the remedy for envy, vain glory, and provocation as well as cannibalizing and consuming another saint.
- Ephesians 4:16—love edifies.