

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

## Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

### Schedule Of Services:

<b>Lord's Day:</b>	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
<b>Wednesday:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

#### *Our Elders:*

Johnie Dodds  
Harry Elliott  
Austin Willis

#### *Our Deacons:*

Danny Carpenter  
Wayne Hulme  
Tommy Savyers

*Our Preacher:* T. Sean Sullivan

## The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD  
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS  
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

# Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

## Ending Envy

Introduction:

What mindset destroys love and provokes hate; pulls apart friends and draws enemy lines; and sees others' success as negative? Envy! Solomon in Proverbs says, "A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones" (Proverbs 14:30).

The term "envy" in the New Testament is grouped together with words like unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness—there among those is "full of envy" in Romans 1:29. Then among revelry, drunkenness, lewdness, lust, and strife—envy is also mentioned in Romans 13:13. Then later in the first Corinthian letter we see envy in with carnal, strife, and divisions (1 Corinthians 3:3).

Envy is destructive to all relationships and we must put up a strong wall against it in our lives. Our togetherness as a family in Christ is often disrupted by envy and we need to figure how to defeat this problem. Let's open our Bibles to look deeper into this problem and see if we can gain correction and future prevention.

### A Root of Envy is Want:

The desire of want is compelling and strong. It can make us do foolish things like becoming over-extended financially. All of us have seen children throwing tantrums in stores, screaming, "I want, I want". For many that little kid

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stays inside even after we are supposed to be “grown up”; every time we see something new they surface and throw an “I want” tantrum. “Want” is a wild beast if it is not harnessed and broken by maturity.

Maturity can distinguish between “want” and “need”. What are needs? Three basics of human survival are: Food, shelter, and clothing. Jesus discusses these needs in Matthew 6:25-32. However in verse 33 He teaches us the proper way of having them by adding to the list a higher need: that is God—for our soul’s survival. Jesus certainly taught us this by placing God first in our greater equation of needs (Matthew 6:33).

What are wants? They are things beyond the absolute essentials of survival. Though wants are not innately wrong—the danger is in letting them take control. When our needs are securely in place, wants can find their place. We must not get caught in their trap (1 Timothy 6:9-11). Many examples are found throughout the scriptures to prove that material possession have their place; we however must have the right perspective toward them and use them well (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

What can we do to control our “wants”? Change our perspective toward material things: enough should be enough (1 Timothy 6:6-16). When we fail to be content we are on the doorstep of want and envy. Material possessions are not the most important things (Luke 12:15). All the world’s possessions offered in exchange for your soul is a losing proposition (Matthew 16:26).

### **A Root of Envy is Pride:**

It may not, at first, seem like pride and envy are coconspirators in this life. How can someone who thinks too much of themselves also be envious of others? Pride is a game of comparisons. The proud base their opinions of self on their comparison to others. The proud feel good about themselves when others fail. The proud feel bad about themselves when others have the success or the attention. This leads to the divisive attitudes and actions described in Ephesians 4:31: 1) Bitterness: a reaction of resentment toward others. 2) Wrath: Acting out in rage. 3) Anger: A change of demeanor toward others. 4) Clamor: An uproar—a tantrum. 5) Evil speaking: Defamation of character. These dangerous traits of envy were evident in the Chief Priests and elders who stirred up the crowds to call for the crucifixion of Christ; Pilate knew that it was for envy that they called for Jesus’ death (Mark 15:10). Also these attitudes

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and actions are seen among the “Jews” in Acts 13:42-51 who disrupted the preaching of God’s word. The sad part is that even today those in the church, who are self-interested—those who refuse the ways of God—continue to make use these envious ways (James 3:13-18).

### **A Root of Envy is Ingratitude:**

We should be grateful for the blessings we have received. We know that God knows what we need and He will supply those needs (Matthew 6:32-33). When we fail to see the value of what God has blessed us with we begin to look for more with eyes of envy, like the Israelites in Numbers 11:4-6. God had provided for their need of food—by giving manna and they soon complained that the supply from God was not enough. They began to envy their former place among the Egyptians when they had different foods and in envy they complained against God.

God has provided His Son as a sacrifice for our sins (Romans 5:6-10). He has given us direction for our walk of life (2 Timothy 1:13, 3:16-17). He has offered a fully functional pattern for the church (Matthew 16:18). Should we shun these blessings and look out from the true church with eyes of envy at the world’s religions?

### **Conclusion:**

Envy is a problem that can turn love into hate, bringing ruin to relationships: friends, marriages, family, and even brethren. Can we beat envy? Yes. If we learn that the spiritual is the most valuable and the facts of being saved from our sins and having the Almighty God as our Father—have not any material equal or comparison. If we focus on humility and our work in the spiritual cause of Christ; understanding that when the Lord’s cause is increased we all succeed.

God has provided us with the most needful things. With God we can have the peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:6-8). With God’s peace what more could we ever want? Today God has provide a plan for you to change your life. There is no better possession than the hope of everlasting life—do you need that hope today? Now is the time!  
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