

THE TWIN SINS OF  
ENVY & JEALOUSY  
Scripture: Genesis 4:1-13

INTRO: We are considering in these messages the twin sins of envy and jealousy. *To envy is to see someone who has or has the advantage of getting something or someone one does not wish that person to have and which causes one to have ill feelings towards that person or it aggravates still further ill feelings that were already there prior to this. Jealousy in a bad sense is to want something for oneself which another has or has the advantage of getting, causing one to have ill feelings towards that person.*

Now you may have this question: Let us say you really want a horse of your own, or whatever it may be. And then your neighbor, someone your age, gets a horse of their own. And you get this mix of emotions going through you. Is that envy, or jealousy? Are those feelings wrong? Someone said it is not the feelings that are wrong, it is what we do with them. But if I have ill feelings towards the other person, this is what is bad. It is this that we must overcome. If we do not, we will be overcome by those feelings and that is what is harmful and wrong. And if we learn to overcome envy and jealousy, we will have won a great victory. But, one victory will never be enough. We must be ready to win bigger and bigger things. And the greatest ingredient in overcoming these sins is an ever increasing fear of God.

Last message we also considered the sphere in which these sins operate. It is my view that they operate in the spirit part of man. I shared with you briefly what has happened in the area of health with regard to these three areas. And when it comes to holistic health, God is much more concerned about spiritual pollution than physical pollution. If anyone is holistically concerned, it is God. Look at 1 Thessalonians 5 (read 23). And you see, he is not here talking calories, toxins or fats, good or bad. We are talking about holiness. Sanctification!

When we began on Roman numeral II last message I should have given you a sub-point A. and called it "Man's Basic Makeup - In General". We spoke of man as a three part being. So I will pretend I did, and in this message give you the sub-point B. Man's Basic Makeup - In Particular.

And in this sub-point we are only going to look at one particular aspect, the spirit part of man.

#### B. Man's Basic Makeup - In Particular

We left off last time on the point, on the sphere of operation of envy and jealousy and I said I believe they are sins of the spirit, that is, they take place in the spirit part of man. Let me just share briefly a modal of man's basic make-up as I understand the Scriptures, and I will not be dogmatic about this. This is my own conclusion. Turn with me to Genesis 2 (read verse 7). Here we have, as I see it, the three parts of man. First, God created man of the dust of the ground. Second, He breathed into him the breath of life. There we have the spirit. And third, man became, according to the NKJV a living being. But the original and the KJV say a living soul, *nephesh*.

Now the word for breath is not the usual word for spirit. The word spirit, in Hebrew is *ruach*. This word can be translated as wind, breath or spirit. That is true in the Greek as well. Here it speaks of the breath as *nashamah*, the *nashamah* of life. But look at 6:17. Here it is the *ruach* of life. And it seems these two terms are used interchangeably.

Now let me just slip in one brief word of warning here, regarding the teaching of the Stutzman's that were in our community. I am not here to run others down. But as a shepherd, or pastor, it is my God given job to guard the flock and warn them of danger. I listened to only two of their cd's. I did that because I was asked regarding these folk and one person had some questions about it and gave me these two cd's. I said this to the person who requested I check these two cd's: "These folk make such simple errors that if you use their materials to teach others, you will have to check everything out that they say before you use it." I'll give you some examples. Steve Stutzman said on CD 1, "Sin is an issue of agreement, not an action." Well, an agreement is an action. But I have not come across a definition like that in all my studies. The basic word for sin in both Hebrew and Greek is to miss the mark. That is not an agreement, that is an action.

Then he said, "The concept that a Christian is judged by works is not biblical." Now, if he meant and had clarified and said that we are not judged by works as to whether we will be saved or not, now he would be correct. But leaving it open ended, a believer can be very miss-led because everybody will someday be judged by works which will affect either rewards or punishments (1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; Luke 12; Revelation 20).

But they made a very huge issue of man being a spirit, and that is a major theological error. Bob Painter said on CD #2, "You must understand you are a spirit." "Our enemy is a spirit." He went so far as to say, "Say it with me, 'I am a spirit.'" Now if you do not have time to verify what you are saying and you say it with him, you are being brain washed. And in his teaching he then quoted Proverbs 4:23 to prove his point which says, "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life." And then he said, "The word 'heart' is the word *pneuma*, meaning spirit, the thing that you are." The errors here are serious. First, the word *pneuma* is Greek, and this is in the OT and so the word must be in Hebrew. Second, the word translated heart is the Hebrew word *leb*, meaning heart, not spirit. Then I wondered, could he perhaps have been using the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew OT, but the word there was not *pneuma* either, it was *kardia*, which is heart, the correct translation of the Hebrew word *leb*.

Last, he said that this spirit is the thing that we are, and that is a major error. First, we are not things, but much worse, we are not spirits! Go with me to John 4 (read 24). God is a Spirit. Now go with me to Hebrews 1 (read verse 7). Now I ask you, is man a spirit too? Now go with me to Luke 24 (read 36-40). I ask you again, is man spirit? No! That is the major difference between God and man and angels and man! Now if you allow a teacher to do this, they can do anything with you they want.

Then, on the CD's they said this, and they have it in their written materials as well which you can check for yourselves. Here is what they said, "I am a spirit, I possess a soul, and I live in a body." Now

listen very carefully. I can prove what I will say from the Scriptures over and over again. Man, as we truly are, possesses a body, possesses a soul, and possesses a spirit. Let me show you this (1 Thess. 5:23). Notice the possessive pronouns. Listen to this and understand what I am saying: It makes a huge difference if I say I am a car or I have a car. Am I right? And it makes a huge difference if I say, "I am a spirit, or I have a spirit."

Now they give as a foundation for their teaching that man is a spirit and that is a major error. This speaker of the second CD said further that for physical problems we go to the doctor. That is correct. Then he asked, "But where do we go for spiritual problems? Do we have pneumatologists?" A pneumatologist would be one who cares for spirits (pneuma = spirit). He says it is our spirit that is born again, but he gives no biblical evidence so I gather from that he feels that is where we need help. But it is the soul that the Bible ascribes care to. Listen to these words of Jesus in Matthew 11:29, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." It is the soul, not the spirit Jesus views of primary concern. In Luke 21:19 He said, "By your patience possess your souls." Again, it is the soul that is pointed out, not the spirit.

The conclusion I have come to is that the real person resides in the soul. The real person possesses a soul, a spirit, and a body. And from the soul he deals with the body and the spirit. In the body we have the five senses. This is the only way we get information in from the outside, the material realm. Now let me give you briefly, a visual modal of man as I see it from the Scriptures. It is pictured in the tabernacle (have modal; show body, soul and spirit. Five outside pillars = senses. The number 5 is stamped all around the outside of the tabernacle if you will study the building in Scripture.)

Now if I am correct about the tabernacle picturing for us a modal of man, then what of the four pillars which hold the doorway into the holy of holies? As the five pillars picture the five senses, so these four pillars show us the four senses of the spirit.

You see, information comes to the soul from the body in five ways. But information comes from the spirit to man in four ways. There are four types of spirits through which we connect with the spirit world. You see, there is no doorway on the outside into the spirit, because spirits do not need a physical doorway. But the spirit does have a doorway, but it is from the inside. And it is accessible to the soul. So, first, the Holy Spirit communicates to us via the spirit of man. Second, man's spirit can communicate to man. I always ask this question. How many of you have ever been somewhere and you got no message from the five body senses but you sensed somebody was watching you? That is a spiritual sensation. Look at Mark 2 (read 8). You see, Jesus knew what was going on inside of them, not by the physical senses, but by the spirit.

Then, third, animal spirits may be discerned here. Check out the hunting methods of the Natives around us and you will find all kinds of evidence here. But last, evil spirits too have their influence on us through the spirit part of man. I believe that when evil spirits enter animals, it is the spirit of the animal they enter.

So, I have given you all this, some as warning; some for interest sake but the main reason was so that you would understand where, in man, such sins as envy and jealousy operate. Our whole being can be so controlled through our spirit part that it affects our physical part and all the rest. Sins of this area can affect our physical health. But, please do not leave thinking every physical problem is in the spirit part. From what I have heard, that would be a Stutzman error. But, guilt, or envy or jealousy, or greed can kill you from the inside out, and it is a painful death.

Now go with me to 2 Corinthians 7 (read verse 1). This verse concludes a section of thought as I see it. And Paul says, "Therefore, having these promises..." What promises? Well, look at 6:16 (read). Since God is going to dwell among us and walk among us (Rev. 21), and be our God, and we will be His people, therefore, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit! All sins, whether

physical or spiritual are to be cleaned up! Then he goes on to say, 'perfecting holiness'. You see, it is the doctrine of sanctification that is here in view. And how do you perfect this holiness? What will help us to clean up our spirit and body? The fear of God! And getting cleaned up in every part, there we have holistic sanctification!

And to conclude this point, let us deal with a major question. How do I deal with jealousy and envy and such sins when they are part of my life? First, acknowledge and confess that you are jealous or envious. Should you go and confess to someone about whom you have been jealous? Not always. If you have wronged the person in any way, confess and forsake that. But if not, acknowledge to yourself and then confess to God this wrong. And many will say, "I have done that and I still have the problem." Confess again, and again. Always acknowledge you are wrong and this is bad. Work with it and keep battling until you win. It may take some time to gain the victory. Do not surrender in defeat, and do not argue around it. These sins are very, very strong. And last, I believe the most important ingredient to deliverance from these sins is a great and healthy fear of God!

CONCL: Message 2 cut short due to shortage of time.