

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

MAY 2021

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

ENVY: THE O.K. AMERICAN SIN

February 21 to April 1 our church went on a 40 day journey: Re-purposing your life. Several in the congregation had read the book previously but only 1 or 2 people had read the revised version, and I was not one of them. The revised version had changed some chapter content and added two chapters to the original version. The subject? The envy trap and the people pleaser trap, both are excellent and I was particularly challenged by the envy trap chapter.

Envy is the obsessive desire to have what someone else has or be who someone else is. Envy is a global sin and in America it seems to be an O.K. sin. Every commercial is designed to appeal to our envy tendency. After all...why settle with what you have when you can have a nicer, newer car, LeBron James or Michael Jordan shoes, better clothes, or even play the lottery and become a millionaire. Why settle for how you look? Get Botox, cosmetic surgery, better make-up or age defying wrinkle cream.

Envy thinks thoughts like this: “Why does *she* get to live in *that* house?” “Why did *he* get that job?” “Why do *their* kids get special attention?” Envy distracts your focus away from God and puts it squarely on you. The worst part of envy is: it is an insult to God. Every time you envy you are saying: “God you made a huge mistake with me! You could have made me like *that* person – or put me in better circumstances but you didn’t!” Envy puts you in the place of God because you are saying: “God you don’t know what you are doing – my life should be this way...”

Envy has four harmful effects. First, envy denies your unselfishness. Just as there are no two snowflakes alike, there are no two humans alike. When you stand before God some day he is not going to say: “Why weren’t you more like your parents” or “Why weren’t you more like your neighbors.” He will say: “Why weren’t you more like I intended you to be?” Second, envy divides your attention. It divides your attention between trying to be like someone else and being who God wants you to be. Third, envy misuses your time and energy. It is a complete waste of time and energy to sit around and say: “Why aren’t I more like so and so?” Envy is like the enemy of contentment. Fourth, envy leads to other sins. Envy leads to disharmony, competition, conflict, resentment and a host of other sins. God take the sin of envy so serious that he made it one of the 10 commandments: “Thou shalt not covet...”

Solomon, the richest man in history let envy drive much of his early life, but towards the end of middle age and in his senior years he wrote things like this: “A heart at peace gives life to the body but envy rots the bones” (Proverbs 14:30) and he also wrote: “I observed all the work and ambition motivated by envy. What a waste!” (Ecclesiastes 4:4). Do you want to get out of the envy trap? Here are a few pointers from God’s Word: realize everything you have is a gift from God, be more grateful, realize life on earth is unfair but God is always fair and finally, you don’t know what God knows – so trust Him completely.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

COVID-19 vaccine success, Dick Fisher, Sunil Bhat, Neck surgery
Missionary of the Month: Pastor Michael Muwonge, and Aaron Lim
Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees, and Trish Dolejs
Stay-Ins: All those regular attenders at home on Sunday!

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*"LORD, you are the God who saves me."
(Psalm 88:1)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women Moving Forward (Missions, W.M.F): Our women's missionary group would love to keep moving forward and make an impact in the church and in the world, let Penny Cloud know you will join!

West Wing/Children's Area Update: Every room has been transformed into a contemporary learning environment, every floor is new, every cabinet is new, every table and chair is new (but owned by the preschool), even every toilet is new in the children's ministry area! Take a look after church this Sunday.

Speaking of Preschool: For the safety and especially the health of students in this COVID era please do not enter the preschool area while it is in operation. As tempting as it may be do not pat a child on the head and say "cute kid." These precautions are standard protocol of preschools these days.

Renovation Financial Goal: We are almost there! So far the church has received \$3,680 of the \$5,000 amount needed to fully fund the present costs for our part of renovation. The final \$1,320 can purchase a new sink and vanity in the nursery. It will also help move us closer to purchasing a new sink and vanity in the women's restroom.

Giant Yard Sale: This June 24th we are having "New Albany's Largest Church Yard Sale". Bring-in that stuff you have been waiting to get rid of for the past months (or years). Please....bring in good, resalable stuff! All proceeds go towards the ongoing church renovation much needed makeover. See Tamie McVay or Dawn Dague