

Jealousy, Envy & Competition

A Look into the lives of Sarai and Hagar

Genesis 16

1. Definition of Jealousy – James 3:13-16, Romans 13:13-14

- a. A belief that one is entitled to something to which one has no biblical “right”
- b. A resentful or painful desire for another's advantages
- c. An intense interest for another’s honor or prosperity
- d. The fear that something which we possess will be taken away by another person

2. Definition of Envy – Galatians 5:19-23

- a. To want something which belongs to another person
- b. A feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by and in conjunction with desire for the possessions or qualities of another
- c. Spite and resentment at seeing the success of another

3. Sarai – Genesis 16

- a. Possibly embarrassed by her barrenness
- b. Possibly envious of others who had children

4. Hagar – Genesis 16

- a. Possibly saw herself as more favored by Abram than Sarai
- b. Possibly was arrogant because she gave birth to a male child
- c. Possibly was prideful because she had something Sarai did not have

5. Definition and result of Competition

- a. Definition: The act of striving against others for the purpose of achieving dominance or attaining a goal
- b. Result: Conflict, Rivalry, Strife, Striving, Tug-of-war, Warfare

6. What is the biblical answer for Jealousy and Envy? – 1Tim. 6:6-8, Heb. 13:5, Phil. 4:10-13,

a. Contentment is the answer to Jealousy and Envy

b. We should seek to:

- i. Exhibit sufficient satisfaction within our hearts as a result of our *fellowship with Christ* (This is apart from external circumstances and people)
- ii. Be satisfied (content) with what God has allowed in our lives.