

The Green New Deal

What is it?: The Green New Deal will convert the old, gray economy into a new, sustainable economy that is environmentally sound, economically viable and socially responsible. It seeks to solve the climate crisis by combining quick action to get to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and 100% renewable energy by 2030 along with an “Economic Bill of Rights” – the right to single-payer healthcare, a guaranteed job at a living wage, affordable housing and free college education.

This is not the The Green New Deal that I’m talking about... Today on the heels of Thanksgiving I want to speak about a green new deal that is much more sinister, demonic and deadly. It is a destroyer of people and civilizations.

Introduction:

- It is the problem that no one has!
- It was the source of the sin in the garden of Eden...
- It was the cause of the first murder...
- It was what killed Jesus... **Mark 15: 10**
- This “green new deal” problem is universal
- It is an equal gender employer; it doesn’t discriminate against age or ethnicity!

I am speaking about envy, not because I am delivered from it, but because I am delivered from it... If I admit to envy then I am admitting I don’t have my identity in Christ. Today I want to demystify it and define it... so that you can identify it easily

‘Green with envy’ was a colorful term used long before Mark Twain wrote these words about jealousy in the late-1800s. Today, the saying means that one is envious or covetous of someone or something. If one is “bitten by the green-eyed monster,” it’s thought they are consumed with jealousy. With envy being one of the deadly sins, there’s been a lot written about it since the beginning of time.

If you go back a few hundred years to the 16th and 17th centuries, great authors such as Shakespeare and Chaucer wrote of characters who were green with envy. Shakespeare uses green to describe jealousy at least three times in his works. In Othello, Iago refers to the ‘green-eyed monster.’ In Anthony and Cleopatra,

Shakespeare wrote of the ‘green sickness,’ meaning jealousy. And in Merchant of Venice, he used the term ‘green-eyed jealousy.’

Long before Shakespeare connected green with jealousy, the color was more commonly used to describe illness. Sources such as Who Put the Butter in Butterfly by David Feldman claim the early Greeks interchanged “green” and “pale” to mean sickly. The Greeks thought that when you were ill or jealous, the body produced too much bile, giving the skin a green tint.

And while many sources are content to let Shakespeare take credit for inventing the idea of a person turning green with envy, a Greek poet beat him to the punch more than 2,000 years earlier. Sappho wrote of a forlorn lover being green in one of her works dating back to the seventh century B.C.E.

Proverbs 14:30 - A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. [NIV]

Job 5:2 - Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple. [NIV]

James 3:16 - For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. [NIV]

- *Imagine how Jesus youngest brothers must have felt*
- *Imagine thinking, my brother created the universe: how do you measure up to that!*

Definition: Envy is distress over another’s success

- *Envy is a master at masquerading – it will never step forward and say: “it is me!”*

Envy is rooted in the thought that there is only so much to go around...

- *In the Kingdom there is not limited resources*

Envy remains hidden until an occasion comes along

- Whenever promotion or blessing comes your way be aware that *envy* is headed your way.
- It is always easier to *weep with those who weep* than it is *to rejoice with those who rejoice!*

The Evils of Envy:

1. Envy always gives birth to disorder and evil practice: James 3: 16

2. Envy always pretends to be a noble motivation: Luke 13: 10

- The ruler of the synagogue was envious of Jesus
- He piously pretended to be concerned about the Sabbath day – Jesus called him a hypocrite

3. Envy always flows out of a competitive and comparable spirit: 2 Corinthians 10: 12-13

- Notice: envy flows out of us comparing our selves to those who have been commended
- We compare and then we start measuring to see how lacking we are in comparison

4. Envy always misperceives the grace of God upon a life: Galatians 2: 9

- **Ephesians 4: 7** – *We have all been given a measure of grace*
- In order to perceive the grace of God accurately upon your life, I must be able to accurately perceive the grace of God upon my life
- The hardest thing for any of us to admit is that God has given someone else greater grace than He has given to me!
- **Romans 12: 3** – We need sober self-judgment of who we really are: *in Christ and without Christ!*
- When you can release others into their sphere of influence you will not diminish yours, it will increase it!
- The only one who can diminish what heaven has given you is you!

5. Envy can only be overcome by love: 1 Corinthians 13: 4

Conclusion:

- How did Jesus confront envy: **Mark 10: 36-43**
- The pattern of scripture is that the Lord always crucifies the one being envied...

- *Cain and Abel*
- *Joseph and his brothers*
- *David and his brothers [David's running for his life hidden in his cave – then hi*
- *Jesus and his brothers*
- Why does God do this? **The Lord never makes the pathway to greater ministry enviable!**
- If that's the price you have to pay to get to where you are then forget it!