**RISE UP** in 2021

May 1, 2021

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**I QUIT**

**Quit Comparing**

Philippians 4:11–13; 2 Corinthians 10:12-13; Luke 18:11-14; 1 Timothy 6:6–10; 1 Samuel 18:6-; James 3:14–16; Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 2:10



What do you compare?

We most often compare four categories:

Our **possessions**

Our **appearance**

Our **performance**

Our **circumstances**

To live without comparison, we must **learn** to be **content**.

*This is the secret of being content: to learn and accept that we live daily by God’s unmerited favor given through Christ, and that we can respond to any and every situation by His divine enablement through the Holy Spirit.* Jerry Bridges, The Practice of Godliness

*Not that I am speaking of being in need,* ***for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content****. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance****, I have learned the secret*** *of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need****. I can do all things through him who strengthens me****.* Philippians 4:11–13

The **Curse** of Comparison

Comparison destroys your **contentment**.

Comparison creates **dis**-**contentment**.

*Not that* ***we dare*** *to* ***classify******or compare******ourselves*** *with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another,* ***they are without understanding****. But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of* ***influence God assigned to us****,* ***to reach even to you****.* 2 Corinthians 10:12–13

Comparison leads to **inferiority** or **pride**.

*The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God****, I thank you that I am not like other men****, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘****God, be merciful to me, a sinner!****’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”* Luke 18:11–14

Comparison robs you of experiencing **joy** in what you have.

*The person with the discontented heart has the attitude that everything he does for God is too much, and everything God does for him is too little.* Don Kistler, Table Talk Ligonier Ministries

*But* ***those who desire to be rich fall into temptation****, into a* ***snare****, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.* ***For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils****. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.* 1 Timothy 6:9–10

It is not the **amount**; it is the **attitude** … It is not about what you have; it is about how you feel about what you have.

Comparison makes you **resentful**.

*As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, “****Saul has struck down his thousands****, and* ***David his ten thousands****.” And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” And Saul eyed David from that day on.* 1 Samuel 18:6–9

We resent God’s goodness in others’ lives and ignore God’s blessing in our own lives.

The **Cause** of Comparison

The root cause of comparison is **envy** and **jealousy.**

**Jealousy** – is about people

**Envy** – is about things

Comparison results in an over-inflated or under-inflated view of self. We use faulty data when we compare ourselves to others. God alone is the omniscient creator; we can trust His choice.

*But if you have bitter* ***jealousy*** *and* ***selfish ambition*** *in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where* ***jealousy*** *and* ***selfish ambition*** *exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.* James 3:14–16

**Covetousness** - inordinately or wrongly desirous of wealth or possessions; greedy. eagerly desirous.

**Covetousness** is ingratitude at the highest level with a fist in the face of God.

The **Cure** for Comparison

Be thankful for **what** you have.

*But* ***godliness with contentment is great gain****, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.* *But if we have food and clothing,* ***with these we will be content****.* 1 Timothy 6:6–8

***Gratitude is a handmaiden of contentment****. An ever-growing attitude of gratitude will certainly make us more content since we will be focusing more on what we do have, both spiritually and materially, than on what we do not have. But contentment is more than focusing on what we have. It is focusing on the fact that all we do have; we have by the grace of God. We do not deserve anything we have, materially or spiritually. It is all by His grace.* Jerry Bridges, Transforming Grace

Magnify the right thing – **God**!

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may* ***see your good works*** *and* ***give glory to your Father*** *who is in heaven.* Matthew 5:16

Know **who** you are and **what** you are called to do.

True success in life is about being who God wants you to be ... not what you want to be.

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* Ephesians 2:10