**Balancing Love for Self and Others: Envy vs. Compassion**

**Envy/Jealousy rots the bones, says Prov. 14:30; Descriptions of Envy: James 3: 14, 16; 4: 1-3. For Jesus, the 10th Commandment (coveting, comparing) calls for love, compassion (Mt 19:19)**

**Descriptions of Compassion (*agape*, Love):**

 **Isaiah 58: 6-12** Prophetic call to specific acts, with specific blessings from God

 **I Cor 13: 4-7** Paul’s classic expression of “Love is patient and kind…”

 **I John 3: 16-17** God is love; we love because He first loved us

**I John 4: 16-21** Perfect love casts out fear

**Matt 25: 31-46** Caring for the sick, lonely, imprisoned, hungry is the way we show our

love for God, and our eligibility for the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Examples of Envy**

**Gen 4: 1-5** Cain envies Abel’s favor with God, and kills him

**Gen 37: 1-5, 9,11** Brothers envy father’s favor of Joseph, and try to kill him

**Luke 15: 25-32** Brother of prodigal son refuses to join the party

**Matt 11: 16-19** People won’t fast and cry with John, or eat and drink with Jesus

**Matt 27: 18** Envy is given as the motive for church leaders killing Jesus

**Examples of Compassion**

**Hosea 1-3** Hosea stands by his wife through adultery and harlotry, and buys her

 back. This symbolizes God’s love as well.

**Matt 8:3, 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 20:34, and 23:37** Examples of the compassion of Christ

**Luke 10: 27-37** The good Samaritan illustrates the greatest commandment

**Example of Compassion overcoming Envy**

**I Sam 18: 1-4** In contrast to the envy of his father King Saul toward David for his

 **I Sam 19: 1-7** popularity, youth, and courageousness in battle, Jonathan loved David as

 much as his own life. He supported him even by facing his father’s

 murderous rage, and overcoming it.

**Commandments to Express Love/ Ways to Regenerate Love with Self-Discipline**

**Ex 20:17**  The 10th Commandment: don’t covet what your neighbor has.

**Lev 19: 17-18** Love one another, don’t hate; don’t carry any grudges.

**Matt 5: 43-47**  Love, bless, pray for, and do good to your enemies.

**Luke 7: 44-47** Woman at Jesus’ feet: the more we’re forgiven, the more we can love.

**Rom 12: 14-15** Bless and don’t curse your enemies. Laugh with those who laugh, and

 weep with those who weep.

**I Cor 13: 4-5**  Hang in there – don’t seek to get your own way.

**Col 3: 12-14**  Shows how Concern is related to Respect and Anger: forgive others as Christ forgave you.

**James 2: 14-16** What good is faith or love without caring for practical, physical needs?

**I John 3: 16-18** In response to Christ’s sacrifice, we should love others, not just in word,

 but in deed and truth.