



“Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him.” (Jn. 3:26)

COMPETITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

INTRODUCTION

- Competition is a common trait
- What do we compete for?
- Competitiveness is characterized by a winner and loser

SYMPTOMS

1. Insist on being right
 2. Must always win the battle
 3. Constant strife
 4. Peace, happiness, and love are not priorities
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CAUSE

- Insecurity
 - Identity
 - Talents/abilities

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- Cain and Abel
- Jacob and Esau
- Leah and Rachel
- Joseph and his brothers



BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- Hannah and Peninnah
 - “And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb.” (1 Sam. 1:6)
- The disciples
 - “What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?” But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.” (Mk. 9:33-34)
- The Corinthian church
 - “Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” (1 Cor. 1:12)

SELF-EVALUATION

1. You hope that he/she does not do something well
2. You feel angry at the success of him/her
3. You feel panicky regarding your talents, after he/she does something you consider to be your strength
4. You are often trying to outdo him/her on various tasks
5. You view him/her as an adversary rather than a teammate
6. You feel happily superior when he/she fails

WHAT IF I'M COMPETITIVE?

- Everything I have has been given to me
- “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.” (Jn. 3:27)
- “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” (Jam. 1:17)
- “For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it.” (1 Cor. 4:7)

WHAT IF I'M COMPETITIVE?

- I am not the greatest
 - “You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’” (Jn. 3:28)
- Be secure in who you are
 - Identify your weaknesses and strengths
 - Accept it
 - Grow and build yourself and others
- People form their impression of you based on your own words and actions not in comparison to others.

WHAT IF I'M COMPETITIVE?

- The source of my joy and validation should come from God
- “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.” (Jn. 3:29)
- “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Lk. 10:19-20)

DEALING WITH COMPETITIVE PEOPLE

- Take responsibility of your share in the relationship
- Do not get dragged into the battle
 - “If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.” (Matt. 5:40)
 - “The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.” (Prov. 17:14)

DEALING WITH COMPETITIVE PEOPLE

- Do not take things personally
 - “We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored.” (1 Cor. 4:10)