

Proverbs 24:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

Analysis

Don't be 'envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.' Envy (Hebrew 'qana') of the wicked is foolish—they may prosper temporarily, but judgment awaits. Desiring their company compounds the error by embracing their values and practices. Reformed theology warns against envying worldly success gained through wickedness. Psalm 73 expresses this temptation and its resolution—the wicked's prosperity is temporary, their end destruction. We must not desire what they have or who they are.

Historical Context

Israel repeatedly saw wicked neighbors prosper while remaining faithful seemed costly. Prophets and psalms addressed this perennial temptation to envy the wicked rather than trust God's justice.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Do you envy those who prosper through unrighteous means?

2. How does eternal perspective help you resist envy of temporal, ill-gotten success?
3. What does desiring the company of the wicked reveal about your values?

Interlinear Text

לֹהִי וְתַתְאֵן תְּקִנְאָה בְּאָנְשָׁךְ וְאֶל

H408 Be not thou envious H376 against evil H408 neither desire H1961

H7065

H7451

H183

אַתָּה אָנָּתָךְ

H854

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 3:31 (Parallel theme): Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

Psalms 37:7 (Evil): Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Proverbs 23:17 (Parallel theme): Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Psalms 37:1 (Evil): Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

Psalms 73:3 (Evil): For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Proverbs 13:20 (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Psalms 26:9 (Parallel theme): Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:

Proverbs 24:19 (Evil): Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked;

