

BETHANKFUL

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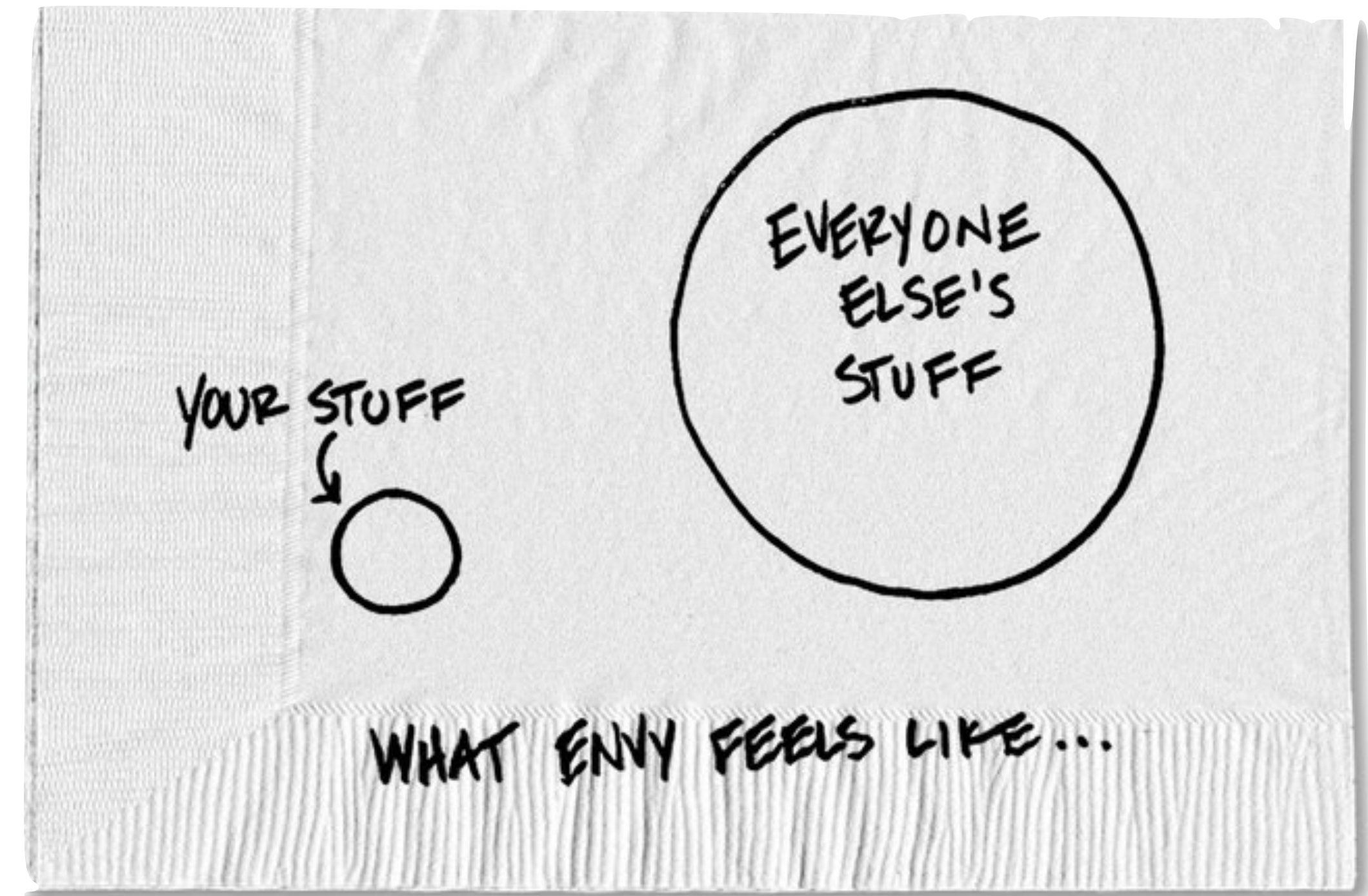
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- Contentment protects us from worldly lusts and keeps our hearts and minds focused on what God has blessed us with versus what we do not have. *Heb. 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
- When we are content, we have peace. When we have peace, we can be thankful. Being thankful to God and grateful for His provision keeps us in a position to be satisfied. *Col. 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*
- The finer things in this life are always appealing, but we cannot allow them to make the lesser things of this life seem appalling. *1Tim. 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*



- Our society has been programmed to measure success financially and not according to God's report. *1Tim. 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*
- Money and finances are good to have, but they shouldn't dictate our peace. God's peace doesn't come with money or finances, it comes with His plan for us. True gratefulness and thanksgiving comes from genuine peace. *Matt. 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*
- Today, many people perceive the wrong things as blessings and their thanksgiving is usually centered around material things instead of the natural things God has provided. *Matt. 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*



- Many churches have made the blessings of God, finances and fame. Leaders flaunt their worldly possessions to their congregations as God blessing them for what they are doing. But in most cases, they are showing the material things because they don't have anything else to show. *1Tim. 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*
- This materialistic pattern causes the people to want what they don't have instead of focusing on what really matters. What really matters is what God has freely given us all: Creation Roles! Yet, most leaders in the church have to shift the focus of blessings on possessions because they are failures in their own homes. *1Cor. 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*
- Bad children, bad marriages, broken homes, etc. plague the homes of the church leaders and erase the true benefits of serving God. Their testimony is a carnal one that only highlights material things. *James 3:16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every kind of evil.*



SUMMARY

We are human beings and should be content with "being" human. Unfortunately, many in the church have made the human element of our existence sinful because of the negativity surrounding their lives. When the Pastor chooses ministry over family with the church's validation, then the people that follow him will see the spiritual as more important than the natural.

As a result, our thanksgiving to God becomes superficial and we are not in position to thank Him for just being God since we aren't pleased with just being His creation. The more we want and desire, the less thankful we become. We must learn contentment in the things He has given us and find our joy in doing what God created us to do. These things will bring contentment and keep us focused on what He desires, instead of what we want.

Matt. 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matt. 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: