

COMPETING WITH THE FAMILY

Everyone generally says they love their family members. They do not want to say anything demeaning that would also make them look lowered, just like the family member they review in their thinking. But would anyone admit that siblings or even children versus their parents are always in some form of competition, even when not willingly doing that way?

A good example would be the parent who wants to live their life through their children, making their children take on school activities or attend a school or work based on what they think is pleasing. The parent is saying, "Well, I didn't have it this good. Let me make sure my children have a better future than I did," not realizing they are making their children compete against a vision or a dream of unattained missed opportunities. The parent sometimes competes with their children, making them work extra hard for any love presentation or approval.

But what about sibling rivalry? For example, siblings can have healthy competition by playing social games or baking contests. But what happens when one child has envy against a sibling and everything that one child does is judged or critiqued? When is it no longer healthy? When the person thinks territorially and treats a sibling as a stranger.

Anyone would be viewed as an enemy if they had a well-endowed plan. But what about sexual dealings? Some siblings are so jealous of their own blood relatives that they would fear that their significant other or girlfriend will turn and take a look at what the other has. I've heard of a story of a woman who would not let her sister in her wedding because she feared her sister would outshine her. That is a much deeper problem than what the sister looks like.

But should enemies be in the family? This question pertains to the way of sexual dealings. Should you hope that your brother or sister stays overweight so that you will feel better? What if they made more money? Would that be a form of power that can drive the sexual

craving in someone close to you? For some people, if someone makes more money than them, they feel sexually inadequate, as if money brings sexual pleasure. Rather, for some, seeing a person with money builds their sexual appetite, for money can be perceived as a form of power. When women feel that they would feel pretty or happy or less insecure if their family member stays poor or fat or friendless, jobless, and so on, there is a much bigger problem.

But what drives the lack of support? For some people, social media makes them fear what is not. For others, a previous trauma brings them an emotional wall, making them afraid of trusting others.

What should be our goal? When we look at our parents or blood siblings and see a trait we envy, we should turn to Yahweh and ask Him to show us our hearts and why we dislike that trait in that other person. It's as if, "If my family member could have that lifestyle or that man (or woman) and have that body, why can't I? Don't we share the same genes?" And that is the fear that they will never have a purpose apart from trying to gain a goal not meant for them.

What if we went to Yahweh and told Him how we felt? What if we present to Him what hurts us and how we long to be a success story? And Yahweh would share: "You are a wonderful treasure. I made you. I formed you. You are the only plan like you. And I want you to trust Me. I can fill this void."

So, can we pray together?

Thank you, my God Yahweh, for bringing encouragement. My heart aches over not having achieved what I thought I would have. By now, in my life, I thought I would be doing what You hear me speak of. And I want to now look to what I am in the Kingdom. I want to know how to be with clean hands and a pure heart. Please forgive me for my hatred towards (the family member). Please help me to show honor and love to others in a way that glorifies You. I'm honored to be in Your family, grafted in.