

## Identity Wars 12 Section 3 – Life Powered by the Duracell

Have you ever been in a situation where you thought you would receive an award, only to hear somebody else's name announced instead of yours?

- How did you feel ... for yourself, and for the other person who won the award?
- Was it fair? The thought enters your head, 'It's not what you know but who you know!' Why did he get the award and not me?

### Welcome to the world of comparison.

It doesn't take very long for children to work out that if they want to be valued and accepted, they must perform, and be better than others.

- Try buying a gift for one of your children and not the other. What reaction do you get? It's not fair!
- The 'watch me' competition in the park. "Daddy watch me!" "No, watch me!"
- Lunch Time – "He's got more than me, not fair, I want more."

Cain's jealousy of Abel. His view of value by performance led to killing his brother.

As we get older we try and be more refined, but comparison and attention seeking form the hub of human existence.

- Fashion, wealth expressed in various ways – bigger is better, glitzier is grander.

Ex 20:17 Thou shalt not covet. Why is coveting so bad. It is born of pride. Lucifer in heaven ... What is the opposite of covet? Contentment.

- Be content. Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11; 1 Tim 6:8

The education system: remove children from the affection of their parents at an early age, herd them into classes; then have them compete for the attention of teachers and comparison among themselves. Reward the best and encourage the rest to try harder for recognition.

- This is the perfect environment to install within children the principles of the Duracell kingdom. You have the power in yourself! If not, then you are of little value...
- 12 years of education is, in reality, 12 years of competition, comparison and reward.
- This prepares us for the greater challenges ahead where dog eats dog to become 'alpha male'. The cream rises to the top, but they are weighed down by the pressures to get there and the fear of failing to stay there. (We remember Alexander, Marx, Jordan)
- The rest, everybody else, feel inadequate because they never achieved greatness.

I call this the 'Lithium Life', where everyone constantly runs down competing against each other, and so without an external source of power to recharge or renew our energies, we end up 'flat' or lifeless. Life becomes a grind, a "ratrace".

- We hear the words, 'you can do it' but at the end of the day only one can be number one.
- The rest have to cope with comparative failure. Have you heard of the idiom – second is the first loser. What do you think this means?

This world's education system is built on intellect, not practical ability.

- Still, in the modern world, the practical abilities which entertain others is now rewarded greatly. Sportsmen and women, actors and actresses, musicians and artists, at the highest level, get well rewarded for keeping the 'not so talented' entertained or distracted, who try to ride on the success of their idols while feeling miserable inside their own hearts. They live through their idols to forget their own lives.

I remember the words of two famous 'Rock' songs. One title is: It's a long way to the top if you want to rock and roll. The other is 'I can't get no satisfaction'. These titles, put together, explain the dilemma humanity faces every day trying to live the Lithium Life.

For men and women there are the two ultimate competitions:

- for the men it is called Mr. Universe. The prize goes to the man with the most awesome body with pumped up muscles. The brain is not even a consideration in this event.

The women have a couple of events: Miss World and Miss Universe.

- The winners of these events must have a combination of beauty, poise, and have to be able to answer one question, usually about a humanitarian issue. They are well rewarded for the next twelve months until the crown is handed over to the next beauty.

What are the differences in emotions between winning and losing?

- Why? Does it change who we are?

What are the differences in the awards or rewards for the winner and the losers? Why?

What happens when you get old and can't perform as well as you did when you were young?

Isn't it interesting that this mentality of success by performance has been adopted into western society from Greek culture. Where did the Olympic Games begin?

- What are the awards given to the winners and first two runners up?
- Medals of gold, silver and bronze.
- Where do we see these metals mentioned in Bible prophecy?

What are some of the negative effects of this kind of role modelling in our society?

- Anorexia, plastic surgery, Botox, suicide, gambling, alcoholism and drugs etc.

Other areas of the comparison culture: job status, suburb status, how many children do you have? When they grow up – what is their career (job status), where do they live, how many grand children do you have etc.?

It's always compete and compare, compete and compare.

- The education system sure did a good job in moulding our thinking into its image
- As in, who is most useful to the worldly system. But is the worldly system, God's system? (John 18:36 – "My kingdom is not of this world...")

What does office furniture tell us about position and prestige?

- Who has the best chair, computer, view, position etc?

There basically seven areas of comparative opportunity in life:

1. Education level
2. Athletic ability

3. Musical/Artistic ability
4. Job status/Income level
5. Physical appearance
6. Possessions/Assets
7. Nationality

These are the gods the world worships and hopes will favour, reward or entertain them.

- The demands of these gods are great. Complete submission is required to attain the highest seat in their temples.
- The congregations pay good money to observe their idols at their best.

To become an idol, you must sacrifice time, energy and substance to become the best.

- Family relationships are often put on the line so one can achieve greatness. Sometimes the family will support their young potential idol in their dream and quest for greatness.
- But at the end of the day not many succeed. The rest become the congregation of observers, getting our thrills out of watching others succeed for us.
- (How did it feel when you realized you couldn't become the next best football player, politician, novelist, actor, nobel prize winner? Do you live through others? Do you hate them? How can we overcome our bitterness and jealousy?)

Either as participants or observers, we all become slaves to the gods of this world through the power of the Duracell or Lithium Life (power in ourself).

- If I worship others "talent, expertise, ability" as derived from within them, rather than being a gift from God, I worship man. I am in a way worshipping myself.
- It is these gods, and this way of life, that the God who made heaven and earth seeks to save us from.

1John 2:15-17 "Love not the world..." Thinking like the world is a dead end street.

- Jer 9:23, 24 Let not the mighty glory in his might etc.

What did these people do wrong that they would think they were doing God's will, but really weren't, as in: Matt 7:21-23?