

Anger is Both Perilous and Precious-David Papillon

June 11, 2023

Eph. 4:17-27, Various

A Bible Study on Anger: **What causes anger at times?**

- 1) Esther 1:1-4, 8-11; A drunk King Ahasuerus was embarrassed that his wife wouldn't come and dance for him (V10-11). His rage consumed him (V12). It caused permanent separation (V19), and the king was easily manipulated (V17).
- 2) 1 Samuel 18:6-8; David was getting glory and Saul was not (18:7). It caused an internal struggle within Saul (V8) and he saw everything that David did with suspicion (V9). Anger changes our perception of everything.
- 3) Exodus 32:7-11; God was angered by the corruption and faithlessness of the people of Israel. God had been faithful to deliver them. They weren't faithful to God. God threatened to consume them. Anger is God's righteous response to sin.
- 4) Mark 3:1-6; the leaders were looking for a reason to be publicly angry at Jesus. Jesus' anger seeks to bring judgement and do good to others.

Conclusions: Our anger often leads to sin against God, leads to other sins, to separation, interprets the behavior of others, gets out of control, easily to manipulate and be manipulated. It is not automatically sinful. Anger is both precious and perilous, to put on the new man.

Eph. 4: 17-19, we were futile in our thinking, alienated from God, ignorant, and blind. We are to put off the old man, V22, and put off falsehood, V25. We are to be angry, V26, Ps. 4:4. Then again in Eph. 4:31 we are to put off bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, and evil speaking.

What is righteous anger?

- 1) **Anger is precious**: V26, is a command for a repeated action. It is seen as a human capacity for God's good purposes in putting on the new man. God gives man happiness, sorrow, speech, creativity, friendships, and sexuality. All of these can be used for good and evil.
>A paraphrase/quote from David Powlison's book, Good and Angry, says, "Anger is an active displeasure against something important enough to care about."
God is perfectly angry against all sin with righteous anger, His way is perfect, Ps. 18:30. God is just. God is angry with the wicked every day, Ps. 7:11.
Anger is a confronter of the proud. We are usually the victims of our own anger. We must be angry at something. We are to hate evil, Ps. 97:10, 119:103-104, and at those who hate the Lord, Ps. 139:21.
>2 Cor. 7:10-11, godly sorrow leads to salvation, not to be regretted. The Corinthian's anger led to anger against their own sin, zeal to cleanse themselves of their sin, and vehement desire to leave it. Indignation is a gift from God. If we hadn't seen our sin, we never would have truly repented.
>Eph. 4:17-19 shows the horror of our past life. Hating sin is a blessing. Anger that brings about His glory is righteous anger. Anger that results in standing for the Gospel, for truth, that leads to repairing relationships, to fight against sin, those things bring about God's glory. Is my anger a precious gift to my home or a source of anxiety? Anger that is precious leads to love.
- 2) **Anger is perilous**: it quickly becomes sinful. When is it sinful? When it defends my pride. When I revile in return. When I suffer, I threaten. When asked to reconcile and you reject it. Anger is sinful when it goes on a long time, Eph. 4:26. When it wants to separate from others. Anger is never alone. It gives an opportunity to work with Satan to accomplish division, feeding anger, slander, believer against believer, robbing God of glory. Anger isn't alone.

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Righteous anger sees a need for reconciliation with others. It shows us our sin that causes us to turn from sin. It gives up our right for vengeance. It leads us to confess our sin, Rom. 5:8. Jesus gives us righteousness in exchange for our sin.

Further Discussion and Application

Think it terms of God's glory. How does righteous anger lead to God's glory? How does man's anger lead to death? Look at Paul's words regarding godly sorrow in 2 Cor. 7:10-11. What is the result of worldly sorrow? What does godly sorrow produce from verse 11?

How can speaking the truth in love be a cure for anger? What will the truth reveal about us? When we sin against others, how does truth help us get back on track? How does truth sanctify and cleanse us from sin?

A lot of things go on in the mind that no one knows about until it is revealed in our actions and words towards others. Examine the last time you spoke harshly to another or was rude. What does that reveal about your heart towards them? What needs to be corrected and repented of to move forward into increased Christlikeness?

Examining our perceptions, how can anger quickly set us on a dangerous course where we see things in others that don't exist? How does blindness lead to the sins of Eph. 4:31? How does verse 32 ground us and put everything in the proper perspective? How should we handle and deal with anger and working through issues with others?

How many times have you been wrong about others? How many times have you made opinions and statements about other without even talking to them or getting to know them? Have you ever invited to your home those who you don't know so well to understand and get to know them better? How will this help us form a right perception of them?