

## ANGER...GOOD AND BAD

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*"Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go. Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul." Prov. 22:24&25.*

It is a fact that anger plays a great part in the lives of mankind. I have heard it said that 80% of all people have the problem of controlling its power. It can be experienced in many ways. My reference material shows 33 different words that are used to describe it. Anger unsolved will cause resentment, bitterness, depression, hostility, and can explode into malice, and acts of revenge. It can lead to tremendous complications, and be very destructive to anyone using it wrongfully. Yet the emotion of anger is not always wrong and hurtful when properly directed toward evil. If it is not resolved, it can lead to some very crucial problems in your life. Let's examine some. **(1). Anger Can Result in Church Division And Strife:** *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office." Rom. 12:3&4.* The church of Jesus Christ ought to hold a position above all of us. None are as important as our church, and proud, arrogant arguments can physically bring great grief to any church. Be very careful what you say in a business meeting, or gossip in the parking lot. It doesn't take much for some to pick up and leave their church, with the poison of angry thoughts they will spread among other friends and the neighborhood. Many a pastor has had an angry person, or family, nearly crucify him and run off members, especially, if they are related. For none of us liveth to himself, and none dieth to himself. *"For*

*whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."*

Rom. 14:7&8. Our church, (as a whole) is far more important than personal scuffles of childlike adult rebellion. Guard against anger, and hold every member in love and respect. Be a peace maker and not an agitator. **(2) Anger Can Bring Great Grief Into Your Home:**

Today's text in Proverbs 22

pictures how anger is wrong. Married pairs become filled with despair. Holy wedlock can develop into unholy deadlock. As a Biblical musician I think marriage ought to be a lovely duet, not a fighting duel. How sad when families break apart, and teens go astray because their parents are always fighting like enemies in a marriage battle. The hurt and angry fighting between family members not only scars the current family, but will have serious influence on the future family. Young people who leave home in anger never seem to be able to establish their own families as they ultimately marry. God's instruction is often forgotten in tragic, angry rebellions. and mismanaged parenthood. *"And ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4.* Be a loving parental leader and not a Marine drill sergeant. *"Children obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right." Eph. 6:1.* The older you get you will be surprised how smart your parents were. Don't let anger provoke wrath, bitterness, discouragement, and frustration, but pray and work toward harmony in your home. **(3). Anger Can Destroy Health And The Thrill Of Living For God:** *"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil, in the name of the Lord; And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins they shall be forgiven him." James 5:14-15.* Uncontrolled anger can result in great heart

problems and doctors identify 51 illnesses caused by prolonged anger. Confessing the sin of past bouts of anger can do wonderful things, if viewed as sin to be confessed and forsaken. When wrongs are righted and past feelings corrected better health is ignited. God stands ready to forgive sin, and reconnect friendships ruined by prideful anger. **(4). Anger Always Hurts When It Is Selfishly And Sinfully Motivated:** Many of us think too much of ourselves with a chip on our sleeve, daring someone to knock it off. Then we cry, "Why me" or "I'm not going to put up with that." When we make it our right to pursue something we want, instead of the will of God, we are getting into dangerous territory. We forget we are all different, made in God's image to carry out His will. There can be different ways to accomplish that if they are Biblical and lovingly presented. It is very clear that events, circumstances, and people, all strain our relationships, and give us opportunity for service. These are the three areas that have sprung up repeatedly in my years of counseling. The answer is found in scripture. We must be conformed to the image of God's Son. Rom. 8:28&29. We must constantly yield to His sovereign will. All our actions must bring honor and glory to God. Finally, the result will be peace we could never understand that goes beyond us. Phil 4:6-8. Selfishness will often lead to anger as we perceive ourselves being wronged in some area. Then we apply self justification and strike back because we think our rights are being violated. How much better to let the Spirit fill our lives, mentally do away with old reviewed wrongs, and simply live for Christ. **(5). Don't Nourish Anger and Hold On To Angry Feelings.** *"Be ye angry and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath. Neither give place to the devil."* Eph. 4:26 & 27. The Devil knows one angry, unforgetting, unforgiving person, can wreck havoc in every area. The mad person builds resentment, bitterness, and

hostility, which if continued will end up in fatal rage. Oh, I urge you to eliminate anger with others, and stop losing friends, your sense of well being, and your testimony for God. Some hold grudges for years, destroy their life and friendships, and ruin their testimony and usefulness for God. Work on the problems, and not be angry with the persons. Leave that to God who alone is the agent of revenge. In closing let me say, **(6). There Is Such A Thing As Good Anger:** *"Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath."* Eph. 4:26. There is in fact a good kind of anger but misuse of it can become bad. Stop and consider your anger, know what causes it, and be careful what you do with it. God himself is shown in the Bible to have anger over certain things. *"God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day."* Psa. 7:11. Christ was angry in many situations on earth, but never did He sin in the anger. We too have the right to be angry as our country is systematically and deliberately being destroyed by evil governmental actions and laws. Angry when constitutional rights are being taken from us, and we see evil men getting away with sin.. We can hate this kind of deception and destruction of our great nation. We cannot turn to lawlessness and rage in public demonstrations. We rather must turn to the ballot box and work for those who still believe in rights and liberties. We can mount massive prayer and a oneness of true believers for that which is right. I believe we Christians must pray "God give me wisdom to help me solve my problems," Biblically, anger can be a valid emotion which can bring positive change and correction to a situation. Or it can be a selfish demand of our old sinful nature, wrongly expressed in tirades of ugliness. Invalid anger will have negative results. It is best to stay away from that anger based on a selfish demand, and rather seek for oneness as children of God. We must "keep our cool" and trust God to judge righteously.

