

“Tough Questions: Dealing with Anger – Part Two”

- I. General Observations
- II. Satan’s Purpose
- III. Satan’s Plan (Eph. 4:26f)
- IV. **God’s Prescription (Eph. 4:26f)**
 - A. **Positive: “Be angry” (at the things that make God angry)**
 - **Volative** (command – Ps. 97:10) or **concessive** force (Eccl. 11:9; Mt. 23:3; Jn. 2:19; 7:52; 2 Cor. 12:16)?

“A man that does not know how to be angry does not know how to be good. A man that does not know how to be shaken to his heart’s core with indignation over things evil is either a fungus or a wicked man.” (Henry Ward Beecher)

“Anyone can become angry - that is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way - that is not easy!” (Aristotle)

What are the things that make God angry?

1. Prov. 6:16-19 (Seven things)
2. Idolatry (Dt. 13:6-11; Ex. 32:7-10) / Materialism (Dt. 8:11-14; Mt. 6:24; 1 Tim. 6:6-11, 17-19; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; Lk. 12:15)
3. False Teaching (Dt. 13:1-5)
4. Stumbling Blocks to Children (Mt. 18:5-6)
5. Breaking Covenants (Josh. 9:3ff, 20; Mal. 2:16)
6. Excuses for not Serving (Ex. 4:14)
7. False Shepherds (Jer. 23)
8. Partiality / Personal Favoritism (Lev. 19:15; James 2; Gal. 2)
9. Rebellion against God’s Leaders (Num. 12)
10. God’s Will, My Way (1 Chron. 13:9f cf. 15:12f)
11. Disobedience (1 Sam. 15)
12. Religious People (Mk. 3:5; Is. 1:10-11; Mt. 7:21-23; 23; Rev. 3:14ff; Mal. 1:6-8): heartless worship; hypocrisy; blemished offerings
13. Spiritual Adultery (James 4:1-4)
14. Complaining / Grumbling (Num. 11; Phil. 2:14; cp. 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Eph. 5:20; Ps. 139: Eph. 2:10; James 1:2-4)
15. Boasting (James 4:13-16; cp. 1 Cor. 10:31; Is. 42:8; Dt. 29:17-20)
16. Lack of Forgiveness (Mt. 18:24)
17. Marrying a Non-Believer (2 Cor. 6:14f; Ezra 9-10)
18. Withholding Tithes (Mal. 3:7-12)
19. Injustice (Ex. 22:20-24)
20. Ten Commandments (Ex. 20)
21. Sin (1 Kings 16:2; James 4:17)
22. Not Trusting in & Obeying Jesus (Jn. 3:36; Rev. 19:15)

“Anger is a divinely implanted emotion. Closely allied to our instinct for right, it is designed to be used for constructive spiritual purposes. The person who cannot feel anger at evil is a person who lacks enthusiasm for good. If you cannot hate wrong, it’s very questionable whether you really love righteousness.” (Dr. David Seamands)

“Give me a hundred men who fear nothing but God, and *who hate nothing but sin*, and who know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified, and I will shake the world.” (John Wesley)

B. Negative – Do not sin!

Discussion & Application:

1. What is the difference between righteous and unrighteous anger? Give examples of each from the Bible or your own life or current situations in the world.
2. Why did God give us the emotion of anger and the physical reactions to it? What positive things come from being righteously angry?
3. Is it difficult to keep righteous anger from becoming unrighteous anger? If so, why?
4. Look at the list of things that make God angry. Which of those are quite common today? What are some of the excuses people give for living that way?
5. Which of the things on the list do you personally struggle with the most? What are some specific ways you can begin to overcome those sins that make God angry?
6. Do the things on that list make you angry? If not, why not?
7. Discuss one thing on that list that makes you angry and what you believe God wants you to do about it.