

November 13, 2016
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Selected Scriptures; Eph. 4:26-27

“Tough Questions: Dealing with Anger – Part Three”

- 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)**
 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. We just came through a very difficult election and a lot of people are angry. Many of the opinions expressed on social media are volatile. Why are the people who lost so angry? What values or ideals were they fighting for? What concerns do they now have for the future? Are any of their concerns biblical and valid? How can we apply Prov. 15:1-7 to our current situation and be a blessing to those who are struggling?
2. Have you ever been angry about things you thought might happen but they never happened? Who or what influenced your thinking to be so negative about the future? How can we guard our hearts and minds from false or negative rhetoric? How can we become more discerning as to what is true and what is false? What is accurate and what is overstated?
3. 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?
4. 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?
5. Do the things on that list make you angry? If not, why not?
6. Discuss one thing on that list that makes you angry and what you believe God wants you to do about it.
7. What does it mean that God is sovereign? How does (or could) faith in God’s absolute sovereignty help you through the frustrations of this life? What are your favorite bible passages that highlight God’s absolute sovereignty in every area of life? If you don’t have any use a concordance or Bible Encyclopedia to find some. Pick one to memorize and meditate upon this week. Here are a few to get you started (Gen. 50:20; 2 Chron. 20:6; Ps. 115:3; Prov. 16:9; Is. 40:21-31; Dan. 4:34-37; Rom. 8:28).
8. For next Sunday. Read Psalms 3-4 and reflect upon how those two Psalms help us overcome sinful anger.