

# Anger

## A Deadly Poison

### Introduction

1. Anger is an emotion that is very difficult to control.
  - a. Many times we are angry when we shouldn't be.
  - b. Sometimes anger is justified, but when we are angry we often express that anger in sinful ways.
2. Anger when placed in the right circumstances and expressed in the correct manner is not a sin.
  - a. God is an emotional being. From time to time He expressed anger toward those in sin.
  - b. But God shows us righteous anger. He teaches us through the scriptures when and how to express anger in a righteous manner.
  - c. It is no wonder then that men, begin created in His image, also show great emotion.
3. Though this is an emotion that most, if not all of us struggle with, we can know the truth about the danger of anger and we can gain an understanding of the difference between righteous and worldly anger.

### Discussion

#### I. About Anger

##### A. Definition.

1. *orge* (*or-gay*): Anger, Wrath: “originally any ‘natural impulse, or desire, or disposition,’ came to signify ‘anger,’ as the strongest of all passions (Vine’s). This is the subtle anger that eats away at a person until they can do something about it.
2. *thumos*: Indignation, Wrath “...is to be distinguished from *orge*, in this respect, that *thumos* indicates a more agitated condition of the feelings, an outburst of wrath from inward indignation, while *orge* suggests a more settled or abiding condition of mind, frequently with a view to taking revenge.” “Hot anger or passion.” This is the anger that immediately make a person want to hit something or scream (Vine’s).
3. We see by these two definitions that anger is not just a simply emotion. It is expressed in different ways and has different affects on the people who are feeling it.
4. Nevertheless, it is an emotion that must be controlled. It can be very destructive to the person who is anger and to those who are around.

##### B. Anger of God.

1. In the scriptures we see that God expressed both of these kinds of anger.
  - a. *Orge*: John 3:36, God’s anger toward those who do not believe in His Son which is withheld for a time, but Rom. 1:18, will be released when the Son comes to judge the world.
  - b. *Thumos*: Nowhere in the scriptures is God attributed with this kind of anger. This is one that is uncontrolled expression. An outburst of fury. That is something that God never does. His anger is always controlled, He never overreacts, His actions are always calculated and exercised with control (as indicated by the first description).

2. We see His righteous indignation against Israel and Judah as they went further and further into sin.
    - a. God was able to punish them without destroying them (Judg. 2:11-16).
    - b. Even though He was angry He always did that which was best for His people (Ezek. 18:31-32).
  3. When God is angry at man it is always for righteous reasons and it is always expressed in a righteous manner.
- C. Anger of men: Men, on the other hand, cannot make this sort of claim.
1. James 1:20: “*For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*”
    - a. This is *orgee*. With man, though this anger is held in, it is often full of bitterness, envy, and self-seeking (James 3:14-16).
    - b. God’s anger is based on righteousness and His disappointment with those who do not seek that righteousness.
    - c. Our anger is often a result of us not getting what we want or not being treated the way we want and for that reason it is sinful to the core!
    - d. When we retain such anger no good can come from it.
    - e. Many nations have gone to war, people have been murdered, properties damaged, and families split apart because people fail to control their anger.
  2. Though the anger of God is righteous, the anger of man is one of the most devastating sins we can commit.

## II. The Sin of Anger

- A. Anger is a common thing in our society.
1. As a result it is often justified, even by Christians.
  2. “I lose my temper, but it’s all over in a minute.”
  3. “That’s just who I am.”
  4. “I don’t hurt any one. I take it out on the punching bag.”
  5. “If people treat me bad it’s OK to treat them bad.”
- B. But God shows us that anger is not so innocent. Rather, **it is a deadly sin!**
1. Matt. 5:21-22: Jesus shows us that the outward expression of anger is not the only sin-anger itself is a deadly sin as well!
    - a. Angry thoughts and insulting words may never lead to murder.
    - b. “Yet they constitute enough sin to place one ‘GUILTY ENOUGH’ to go into the fiery hell!” (Dunagan).
    - c. Such evil thoughts and evil actions are an expression of the desires of our hearts. That is where all sin comes from.
    - d. Though we may not say anything, but only think evil thoughts because of our anger we are in sin!
    - e. When we actually react according to our anger we are only making matters worse.
  2. 2 Cor. 12:21: The sins listed here are all a result of anger!
    - a. Paul was giving the brethren the opportunity to repent before he got there.
    - b. Paul would mourn for those who would not repent because they were in sin, and in danger of hell fire!
    - c. The same stands true for us today when we angry in this manner!
- C. We must emphasize the sin of anger so that we may learn to flee from it!

1. When we have indignation in our hearts toward other people we are in danger of hell fire!
2. When we express our anger toward other, physically or verbally, we are in danger!
3. Such anger will only hurt others and result in our own condemnation.

### III. Righteous Anger.

- A. Eph 4:26 a., “*Be angry, and yet do not sin...*” It is possible to be angry and not sin, but how?
  - B. Does not lash out at others.
    1. Wrath as an expression of anger belongs to God alone.
    2. At no point should we ever think we have the right to take vengeance on another person (Rom. 12:19).
      - a. At no point should we ever think we are justified when we lash out in anger, scream at another person, insult another person, or throw things or do anything to express our frustration at others.
      - b. This is selfish, divisive, and ungodly to the core.
    3. This is the anger of the world and must not be tolerated.
  - C. Righteous anger is the result of righteous reasons.
    1. When men teach false doctrine righteous anger is necessary.
      - a. But remember this anger does not lash out.
      - b. It does not respond to error with ungodly character or violence.
      - c. Rather, it uses the tools of God to overcome that error: the scriptures (2 Cor. 10:5), combined with godly speech (Col. 4:6).
    2. Concerning sin, righteous anger is necessary.
      - a. 2 Cor. 7:11: indignation toward the sin itself, which does not do violence toward others, but seeks to cast off the sin.
      - b. Indignation toward our own sins.
      - c. When we have anger toward the sins of others we cannot lash out in anger.
      - d. Rather, God tells us to approach the person with meekness in Gal. 6:1.
      - e. When the sin is committed against us we are not to lash out in anger. Rather, we are to seek that person’s best interest by approaching them in a godly manner and helping them to come to repentance (Matt. 18:15ff).
  - D. Righteous anger (for men) lasts only a short time.
    1. Read again Eph 4:26, “*Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger...*”
    2. Why is this so important? If our anger is for righteous reasons, why should it not last longer than that?
    3. Eph. 4:27: “*...and do not give the devil an opportunity.*”
      - a. With the Lord, “*...one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*” (2 Pet. 3:8).
      - b. His anger is righteous and will do righteousness no matter how long it lasts.
      - c. But not so with man.
      - d. When we are angry for longer than a short time it “gives the devil opportunity” to plan the seed for bitterness, the desire for revenge, and all manner of evil things.
    4. If we are angry for a righteous reason we will seek to do righteous things. But if our anger endures then it is no longer righteous!

- E. Righteous anger does not lash out at people in the world!
1. Such judgment is God's place, not ours.
  2. When people in the world mistreat us it is not our place to lash out in anger. That is sin!
    - a. Rather, In the scripture we are told to love our enemies by doing good to them (Matt. 5:43-48).
    - b. We are told to overcome evil with good (Rom 12:21).
  3. Rather than lashing out in anger toward them our concern must be to help them be saved.
  4. If we are so busy taking vengeance for what the men in the world do to us, how do we expect to ever convert those people?
  5. If we as Christians lash out at others because of how they treat us or the things they say to us then we cannot convert them to Christ. **Instead they have converted us back into the world!**
  6. But when Jesus was crucified He forgave those who persecuted Him.
  7. If we are to refrain from sin then we must do this very same thing (1 Pet. 2:21).
- F. When other people are angry have must respond with calmness and godly maturity.
1. Respond in like angry manner only ads fuel to an already hot fire.
  2. Prov 15:1: "*A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*"
  3. Prov 15:18: "*A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention.*"
  4. Therefore we are commanded to "be slow to wrath" (James 1:19-20), even to "*put off anger*" (Col. 3:8).

### Conclusion

1. Uncontrolled anger is an evil, devastating, horrible sin!
2. If you lash out when you are angry, say horrible things, do horrible things, or even just think horrible things you are in danger of hell fire!
3. The only way we can be saved from this sort of thing is if we humble ourselves before God in prayer and strive, with all of our might, to change the way we think and act toward other people.
4. We have salvation today because Jesus refused to respond to his persecutors with wrath.
5. We must learn act with the same patience, love, and godliness with which Jesus responds to us and to cast off the anger of the world.
6. When we can do this then we can be called children of God (Matt. 5:48).

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