

UPROOTING ANGER

BIBLICAL HELP FOR A COMMON PROBLEM



In a World Full of Ungodliness- Hate, Anger, Chaos.....

What separates me from the world?
How do I respond in a way to reflect Christ?

Anger- Review

- Last week we discussed an approach to viewing our human sinful anger and how it is important to UPROOT the cause from within us.
- We focused on Romans 12:2 and 1 Corinthians 3:18 for biblical text to bring clarity to the need and source of uprooting/transforming. We need to continue RENEWING our minds!
- Again, anger is a **WHOLE-PERSONED active response of negative moral judgement against perceived evil.**
- Finally we reviewed scriptures that allow us to meditate upon, helps us to recognize and understand what God's word tells us about anger.
 - **Psalms 4:4** 4 Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed and be still.
 - **Ephesians 4:26-27** 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.
 - **James 1:19-20** 19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.
 - **Proverbs 15:1** 1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger
- But, not ALL anger is sin.....



WHAT ABOUT RIGHTEOUS ANGER?

How Do We Expose The Counterfeits?

Righteous Anger

- Three Differential Criteria of Righteous Anger
 - Righteous Anger Reacts Against Actual Sin-
 - Arises from an accurate perception of true evil, from **sin as defined biblically**
 - Does not result from merely being inconvenienced or from violations of personal preference
 - Responds to sin as objectively defined in God's word
 - Righteous Anger Focuses on God and His Kingdom, Rights, and Concerns-
 - God-centered motives, not self-centered motives, drive righteous anger
 - Focuses on how people offend God and His name, not me and my name
 - Righteous Anger throbs with Kingdom Concerns
 - Righteous Anger is Accompanied by other Godly Qualities and Expresses in Godly Ways-
 - Righteous Anger remains SELF-CONTROLLED
 - Keeps its head by not screaming, cursing, being impulsive, lashing out
 - Does not spiral downward to self-pity or despair
 - It does not ignore people, snub people, or withdraw from people
 - Not all-consuming or nearsighted, but focused on sober, earnest ends
 - ****Godly (Righteous) Anger confronts evil and calls for REPENTANCE and RESTORATION**

Righteous Anger

- Dr. David Powlison- Seven Questions to Assess Anger
 - **Do you get angry about the right things?** (This is good litmus test for us all)
 - **Do you express your anger in the right way?** (Think about your expression, does it honor God?)
 - **How long does your anger last?** (Ephesians 4:26)
 - **How controlled is your anger?** (Again, our actions are to be God honoring)
 - **What motivates your anger?**
 - **Is your anger “primed and ready” to respond to others habitual sins?**
 - **What is the effect of your anger?**

These questions, combined, wisely reflect the three criteria for assessing righteous anger

Examples in Scripture of Righteous Anger

Anger was uncommon for Jesus. Anger simply does not characterize the life of Christ. Despite daily provocations from others, His anger was limited to specific occasions. Below are some biblical examples of righteous anger, note in the reading of the text the criteria of righteous anger and how these examples meet those.

- Jesus and the Pharisees (Mark 3:1-6)
 - Jesus accurately perceived the Pharisee's sin; His anger was closely connected to God and His Kingdom, rights and concerns; lastly Jesus demonstrated perfect self-control, not allowing the situation to prevent him from pressing onward with His ministry and healing the crippled man.
- Jesus and His Disciples (Mark 10:13-16)
 - Jesus becomes displeased by disciple's mistreatment of others; passion for God's kingdom consumed Christ, not His own popularity, fame or approval; Again, Jesus manifested self-control, after rebuking His disciples, he focused His attention on the children and pursued the Father's will to bless them.
- Jesus and the Temple Merchants (John 2:13-17)
 - Jesus reacts against the sin of dishonoring God's temple and victimizing the poor; His zeal was for the Father's house; His anger was controlled, but confrontational. His anger showed itself in bold judicial acts.

Examples in Scripture of Righteous Anger

- Saul (1 Samuel 11:1-6)
 - Saul hears about Nahash attacking the Israelite city of Jabesh Gilead. The Holy Spirit came powerfully on him and produced a burning anger. This anger responded against the sinful acts of Nahash; It focused on the good of God and not Saul; it led to clear headed obedience, Saul rose to the occasion and pressed the military campaign to rebuke evil.
- Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:24-35)
 - Jonathan is angered by Saul due to Saul's desire to kill David. He is angered by Saul's sin; His anger was greater for Saul's desire to kill David than it was for the attempt on his own life; it led him to take wise action and warn David of the Saul's sinful intentions.

Final Thoughts

- Quote from God's Not Dead 3- "The Church has become known more for what it's against, than what it's for."
 - Could it possibly be because we allow our Righteous Anger to turn into sinful anger by acting out in unloving, uncaring ways?
- Lifeway Research Quotes-
 - "To follow Jesus means to follow One who was known both for what He was for and what He was against. He pointed people to a better way, as He corrected their views and ways of life."
 - "Jesus confronted hypocrisy of the Pharisees and challenged them to a new way of life. He comforted the woman caught in adultery, but then called her to leave her sin behind."
 - "Similarly, the Bible corrects, rebukes, and encourages"
 - "The "faithful Christian will be known for what they're for AND what they're against, just like the Christ they seek to follow.

Application

- Remind yourself of the dangers of self-deception and review the criteria mentioned to determine righteous anger. Test your anger against the biblical standard.
- As the Psalmist David prayed, we should seek God's searching of our heart to bring forth anything that separates us from Him. This would include us dealing with what He has told us through His word about anger.
- Psalm 139:23-24 NKJV- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if [there is any] wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.