

August 26, 2018
IT'S A MAD, MAD WORLD - Part 3
"Anger and Hatred"

We live in a mad, mad world - a mad, as in angry world, & a mad, as in crazy world.

Anger consistently spreads faster than any of the other emotions on social media.

Sam Ewing: "It's wise to remember that anger is just one letter short of danger."

Genesis 4:3-5 (NLT): "3...Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. 4Abel also brought a gift - the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, 5but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry...."

Proverbs 14:17 (NLT): "Short-tempered people do foolish things..."

Ecclesiastes 7:9 (Message): "Don't be quick to fly off the handle. Anger boomerangs. You can spot a fool by the lumps on his head."

Proverbs 22:24-25 (NLT): "24Don't befriend angry people or associate with hot-tempered people, 25or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul."

Ephesians 4:26 (NLT): "And 'don't sin by letting anger control you.'..." (**Psalm 4:4**)

There's clearly a place for righteous anger, when we see people sinning against others through abuse or taking advantage of them or simply ignoring genuine needs.

Anger is powerful, and so it's easy for us to allow it to push us beyond a loving, caring response for another to the point that we start to sin.

Ephesians 4:26 (NLT): "...Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry"

Ephesians 4:27 (NLT): "for anger gives a foothold to the devil."

Paul doesn't say the devil *causes* anger, but he sure likes to use it to further his purposes, to "steal, kill and destroy." (**John 10:10**)

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT): "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."

The Greek word translated "foul" is used elsewhere in the Bible to refer to rotten fruit or rotten fish.

Significant anger issues can't typically be worked out through social media, but the use of social media can prolong or exacerbate anger.

When we allow anger and hatred to characterize our speech and lives, God is sad and disappointed.

Ephesians 4:30 (NLT): "And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption."

An ambassador represents another country in a foreign land, and while the ambassador interacts with the local culture, he's always committed to his home country and stays true to its ways.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 (ESV): "¹⁹...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us...."

When we allow anger to run wild in our lives, when we imitate the ways of the world around us, we give "a foothold to the devil."

It's been said the number one reason a person chooses to become a Christian is because of another Christian, but at the same time the number one reason a person chooses *not* to become a Christian is because of another Christian.

We can't control how anybody else acts and reacts, but we can, with Christ's help, control how we act and react.

Ephesians 4:31 (NLT): "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior."

If we're a Christian, we are not powerless to the ways of the devil.

Ephesians 4:32 (NLT): "Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."

We encourage everyone to intentionally seek out other Christians in their lives, whether it's one-on-one or more, and small groups are an invaluable part of a disciple of Jesus' journey.

Get the *Life Journal* Bible Reading Plan at gateway-community.org/Find-it

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