

The Christian and Anger

Selected Scriptures

1. The Danger of Anger (Matt. 5:21ff; cf. Gen. 4:5ff)
Anger, when it is not under the authority of God and the discipline of the servant of God, is a cause of all kinds of other sin in the world and problems in the church (cf. 2 Cor. 12:20). A prolonged state of anger or the reality of a person perpetually being angry is a source of great concern (Heb. 12:15; cf. Deut. 29:18).
2. Anger (wrath) is one of the ways God expresses Himself (Ex. 34:6; Rom. 1:18)
“[The wrath of God] is the holiness of God stirred into activity against sin.” - A.W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, p. 83
3. Anger is a proper response to sin (Rev. 14:19; 19:15; cf. Isa. 63:3; Joel 3:13)
This does not mean that we must immediately respond with anger to a sin, but it does mean that the end of sin is death and judgement (Matt. 25:41, 46; cf. 2 Thess. 1:9)
4. It is possible for men to be angry and to not sin.
 - A. The Example of Jesus (John 2:13-16; Matt. 21:12)
 - B. The Admonition to Christians (Eph 4:26-27)
5. Man’s anger at sin does not necessarily result in righteousness
 - A. The Example of Esau (Gen. 27:34-41)
 - B. The Example of Moses (Num. 20:10)
 - C. The Example of Jonah (Jonah 4:1-2)
6. How Can I Avoid Sinning When Angry?
 - A. What if I am angry with God? (Num. 23:19; 1 John 3:9; cf. Jam. 1:13)
If you are angry with God it is you who are in sin, and you must repent.
 - B. Remember that God is the Avenger (Deut. 32:35; Rom. 12:14-21)
 - C. Make sure that my anger is concerned with God’s righteousness and not my own.
7. Be Careful Before Becoming Angry with Another Believer (Matt. 18:21-35; Eph 4:32; Col. 3:13)