

Prov. 19:3, 11, 19: When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD . . . ¹¹ Good sense makes one slow to anger, & it is his glory to overlook an offense . . . ¹⁹ A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again.

Intro: If you could master your anger & the art of conflict resolution, all of your relational problems would be solved. Anger ruins lives. Anger ruins relationships. Anger ruins marriages. Anger ruins families. Anger ruins careers. Anger has a great cost. Anger is murder & leads to hell:

Matt. 5:21-22: You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; & whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire.

There is righteous anger: **Eph. 4:26-27:** Be angry & do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, & give no opportunity to the devil. [Have you been angry?] **GOSPEL!**

As God’s children, repent of anger & be slow to anger, for all God’s anger is extinguished toward you!

1. Fools Ruin Their Lives And Get Angry At The LORD

Prov. 19:3: When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD.

a. Foolishness brings ruin: Foolish people ruin their lives! We spoke about this last week – when people don’t fear God, don’t obey God, don’t seek & live according to God’s wisdom, they ruin their lives! Anger ruins people’s lives; sexual immorality ruins people’s lives; gay sex ruins people’s lives; promoting & participating in transgender lies ruins people’s lives; lying ruins people’s lives; laziness ruins people’s lives; drug & alcohol addiction ruins people’s lives; not honoring & obeying your parents ruins people’s lives; all the foolishness Proverbs warns against ruins people’s lives. (Rich & famous who die). Lives are ruined forever in hell without Christ!

b. When this ruin happens, people rage against the LORD & blame Him: Fools who ruin their lives; they hate God & deny His existence; Fools who give God no time or attention or worship or trust or love all of their lives – then they rage against God & blame God when they ruin their own lives! It is never right to be angry with God. God is very right to be angry with fools.

Eric Lane: Yet because he is blind to himself he blames God, not with quiet bitterness but burning rage against the Lord. He accuses God of injustice when he himself is the unjust one; he left God out of his plans, but when they go wrong it’s all God’s fault. This has been the story of all our lives since Adam disobeyed God & blamed him for creating Eve, who herself blamed God for allowing the serpent to tempt her. The darkest blindness of all is to fail to see that if we would only accept the blame & confess our folly to him, he would not only forgive our willful ignorance but rebuild our ruined lives.

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2. The Godly, Wise Person Is Slow To Anger

Prov. 19:11: Good sense makes one slow to anger, & it is his glory to overlook an offense.

a. What is anger?: Anger is when our whole being (body, mind, heart, emotions, desires) actively responds to something we believe to be wrong, evil, or unjust.

Ed Welch (*A Small Book About A Big Problem*): When we are angry, we “want something - peace, money, respect – & we aren’t getting it. The only difference is in our choice of weapons. Some use guns, others use words.” Love is the opposite of anger. Anger is disdain, hatred, & contempt. Anger is not something that comes upon us when an offense is committed (you push my buttons!). Anger is already in us. Anger is against God because he is the one who directs [all] the details of our lives. In fact, in our anger & outrage, we have decided that we want to be God rather than submit to Him. Anger looks like Satan . . . & it summons him. [**Eph 4:26-27:** Be angry & do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, & give no opportunity to the devil.] So anger is not just about our desires that have gotten out of control. Anger is also a partnership with Satan, who is a murderer. What makes us so important that life must go according to our plans? We cannot script the events in our lives. When life throws us unexpected trouble, an arrogant person gets angry because his or her “kingly rights” have been violated. A servant who realizes his insignificance, however, responds “If the Lord wills.” Anger takes everything personally, as if everything is an intentional act to make your life miserable. When you are fully confident that your Father is just, you know that injustice will not prosper. You will not become angry when offenses are committed against you because you will leave it in his hands.

b. Good sense makes one slow to anger: Fools are hot tempered. The world teaches that anger is strength. “Real men get angry.” But God’s Word (200 Proof!) teaches differently. Real men have self control. Real men are slow to anger:

- **Prov. 16:32:** Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, & he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

- **Prov. 14:29:** Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

- **Prov. 15:18:** A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.

- **Jam. 1:19-20:** Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires.

- **God is slow to anger: Exod. 34:6:** The LORD passed before him & proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful & gracious, slow to anger, & abounding in mercy & faithfulness”

c. It is his glory to overlook an offense: Christians should be the thickest skinned people on earth! Christians are people who don’t retaliate. Christians are people who forgive!

John Kitchen: The overlooking of a wrong is . . . a man’s “glory.” The word is used to describe the beauty of adornment of something. It can refer to a reputation, name, fame, or renown. Retaliation is not the badge to wear. Rather, let us be known for being adorned by the beauty of

forbearance & a longsuffering [patient] spirit. Love covers over another's sin, rather than laying it bare. (Daniel Church with Dad)

Eph. 4:32: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you

John Piper: (FEB, 2006: "Being Mocked: The Essence of Christ's Work, Not Muhammad's"): What we saw this past week in the Islamic demonstrations over the Danish cartoons of Muhammad was another vivid depiction of the difference between Muhammad & Christ, & what it means to follow each. Not all Muslims approve the violence. But a deep lesson remains: The work of Muhammad is based on being honored & the work of Christ is based on being insulted. This produces two very different reactions to mockery. If Christ had not been insulted, there would be no salvation. This was his saving work: to be insulted & die to rescue sinners from the wrath of God. Already in the Psalms the path of mockery was promised: "All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads" (Ps. 22:7). "He was despised & rejected by men . . . as one from whom men hide their faces . . . & we esteemed him not" (Isa. 53:3). When it actually happened it was worse than expected. "They stripped him & put a scarlet robe on him, & twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head . . . & kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' & they spit on him" (Matt. 27:28-30). His response to all this was patient endurance. This was the work he came to do. "Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth" (Isa. 53:7). This was not true of Muhammad. & Muslims do not believe it is true of Jesus. Most Muslims have been taught that Jesus was not crucified. One Sunni Muslim writes, "Muslims believe that Allah saved the Messiah from the ignominy of crucifixion." Another adds, "We honor [Jesus] more than you [Christians] do . . . We refuse to believe that God would permit him to suffer death on the cross." An essential Muslim impulse is to avoid the "ignominy" of the cross. That's the most basic difference between Christ & Muhammad & between a Muslim & a follower of Christ. For Christ, enduring the mockery of the cross was the essence of his mission. & for a true follower of Christ enduring suffering patiently for the glory of Christ is the essence of obedience. "Blessed are you when others revile you & persecute you & utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account" (Matt. 5:11). During his life on earth Jesus was called a [child born out of wedlock] (John 8:41), a drunkard (Matt. 11:19), a blasphemer (Matt. 26:65), a devil (Matt. 10:25); & he promised his followers the same: "If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household" (Matt. 10:25). The caricature & mockery of Christ has continued to this day. Martin Scorsese portrayed Jesus in *The Last Temptation of Christ* as wracked with doubt & beset with sexual lust. Andres Serrano was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts to portray Jesus on a cross sunk in a bottle of urine. The *Da Vinci Code* portrays Jesus as a mere mortal who married & fathered children. How should his followers respond? On the one hand, we are grieved & angered. On the other hand, we identify with Christ, & embrace his suffering, & rejoice in our afflictions, & say with the apostle Paul that vengeance belongs to the Lord, let us love our enemies & win them with the Gospel. If Christ did his work by being insulted, we must do ours likewise. When Muhammad was portrayed in twelve cartoons in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, the uproar across the Muslim world was intense & sometimes violent. Flags were burned, embassies were torched, & at least one Christian church

was stoned. The cartoonists went into hiding in fear for their lives, like Salman Rushdie before them. What does this mean? It means that a religion with no insulted Savior will not endure insults to win the scoffers. It means that this religion is destined to bear the impossible load of upholding the honor of one who did not die & rise again to make that possible. It means that Jesus Christ is still the only hope of peace with God & peace with man. & it means that his followers must be willing to “share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death” (Phil. 3:10).

d. God on anger: Prov. 15:1: A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- **Col. 3:8:** But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, & obscene talk from your mouth.

- **Jam. 4:1-2:** What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder.

- **Eccl. 7:9:** Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.

e. We must fight to kill anger: Rom. 8:13: For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

View those moments/things that anger you as tests: Movie where man tests: He tries to provoke man to anger to see if he's a good man. God tests: **Deut. 13:1-3:** If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you & gives you a sign or a wonder, & the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, & if he says, “Let us go after other gods,” which you have not known, “& let us serve them,” you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart & with all your soul. [God tests us for good, but Satan tempts us for evil – resist!]

You've often done to others the very things that make you angry. You've done worse to God!

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3. Anger Has Serious And Recurring Consequences

Prov. 19:19: A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again.

a. You will suffer the consequences for your anger: A man of great wrath will pay the penalty

Do you have a great anger problem? Be sure your sin will find you out, & you will pay for it. You will lose your job; you will lose your pastorate; you will lose your wife; you will lose your family; you will lose your honor & respect; you will lose your life (death; death penalty; or jail); you will lose your money & possessions; you will lose your soul in hell! [You can be delivered! Gospel!]

John Kitchen: A man given to such “great anger” will have to stand alone when the consequences of his anger begin to [manifest themselves]. He alone will pay the prices. That is not to say that others will not experience difficult & often painful consequences as collateral damage.

b. Don't help people in a way that hurts them: Prov. 19:19: A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again.

Sometimes helping hurts. We have to seek to help people in a way that actually addresses the root & heart of the problem. Just throwing money at people often doesn't help them. Don't just give them a fish, teach them how to fish.

John Kitchen: We are warned to count the cost before we bail out a man notorious for his anger, because "you will only have to do it again." We only really help people when we assist them in dealing with the underlying source of their troubles. (Don't keep posting bail for an angry man) . . . Some people are quite skilled at manipulating such temporary "help" from their friends, even while refusing their counsel regarding their fundamental problems. All such "cosmetic" help only wastes our resources, enables the angry man to continue unchanged & opens us up to great pain. This is not a prohibition of all such practical help, but only a warning of the ultimate limited nature of its assistance. [Are you angry? Get help! Read; pray; counseling; confess; accountability]

Jesus: Prov. 19:3: When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD: Jesus had no folly, but our folly brought Him to ruin on that cross! Jesus never had an ounce of sinful anger toward the LORD; But the anger of the LORD raged against Him because of our sins imputed to Him!

- V. 11: Good sense makes one slow to anger, & it is his glory to overlook an offense: Jesus was perfectly slow to anger – He never sinned in anger! He overlooked offenses in a righteous way, but died for all of our sinful anger & was punished for all of our offenses so that we might be saved!

- V. 19: A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again: Maybe you have been a man of great wrath: Jesus paid the penalty for your sin! Trust Him!

As God's children, repent of anger & be slow to anger, for all God's anger is extinguished toward you!

Christ Jesus' Righteous Anger Burns
He Rages Toward All Those Who Spurn
His Father's Will – God's Wrath We'd Earn
Hell, Condemnation, Judgment Stern
But God In Love And Mercy Turns
Away From Wrath – His Anger Burned
Toward His Own Son – His Violence Churned
Christ Died And Suffered All We'd Earn
Then Rose Again – All Death He'd Burn

By Faith Alone We're Just – Discern
And Walk By Faith – Self-Control Learn
By His Spirit From Anger Turn
For Holiness And Kindness Yearn
Slow To Anger – Let True Love Burn
Overlook Offenses – Show Deep Concern
For Christ Is All And Will Return
May Our Hearts Burn For Him And Yearn!