

## Sin 101

### Lesson 5 Anger

#### **PART I EXPLANATION**

**Introduction:** The sin of anger is probably one that the fewest people would consider themselves to have a problem with and yet it is one of the greatest causes of division and discord in our relationships with others. Whether in the home, the church, or amongst other friends failure for individuals to deal with anger opens the door for the devil to wreak havoc in our relationships.

The Bible expects us to *control* our anger. We are to be angry without sinning. The way to accomplish this is to be angry at the right things. Anger that is acceptable is anger that is defending God and His character from defamation or disgrace. It is to be offended at what God is offended at, sin. The Person that is most associated with anger in the Bible is God Himself. The Bible mentions Him as being angry over two hundred times. The difficulty however, is that we easily, very easily are deceived by the true cause of our animosity.

It is easy to get frustrated and angry with those around us for the wrong reason. When others are disobedient or rebellious it is natural to get angry. However, we must determine whether our anger is because of the harm it will bring to them, because it is an offense to God, or because it affects or reflects negatively upon ourselves. Too often, the cause of our anger is driven by selfishness and pride.

For example, when children are being disobedient, it is easy to get angry at their behavior. But is our anger because we are concerned for their well being or is it because we are frustrated with having to deal with the inconvenience? Another cause of anger with children is because their bad behavior reflects negatively upon our parenting. In each case our anger is not justified but rather selfish.

Another example is when someone does something that offends us. When we are injured by their words or their actions it is easy to be “offended” which is another word for being angry. This is almost exclusively the result of someone not treating us the way that we feel we deserve to be treated. Certainly there are instances when someone has genuinely been treated improperly and in these instances we must learn to deal with them in a proper way.

The Bible expects us to *confront* anger. We are not to allow anger to fester like a volcano that will eventually erupt. Anger is easy to detect in someone that blows sky high when they are upset. However, different people have different ways of displaying anger. The best way to detect anger is to monitor the tone of our voice and the tenor of our words. Even those who don’t explode can release anger by grievous words or by having an “attitude” toward the object of their anger.

The reason why anger is such a difficult sin is because we are so successful at convincing ourselves that we are not offended or that we do not have a problem with anyone. This quickly and easily leads to bitterness. Bitterness is something that develops over a period of time when anger is not dealt with properly. That is why the Bible tells us not to allow the “sun to go down upon our wrath” but rather to confront it.

The dictionary definition of anger is a passion of the mind excited by a real or *supposed* injury. Often anger and bitterness can develop in churches and families over injustices that were not even genuine. Rather they come as the result of something that was said or done and was “taken wrong” or was a complete misunderstanding. By confronting the situation it eliminates

these supposed injustices that are not genuine and also deals with genuine injustices before the Devil can magnify them.

The final thing the Bible expects is for us to not *concede* anger. As mentioned above, the failure to properly deal with anger gives opportunity to the Devil to sow discord among friends and families. He is a master at taking “supposed” injuries and magnifying them into colossal conflicts. We have a duty as saints especially to not allow such opportunity for the Devil to destroy the church.

**Definitions:** *For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Anger** -

**Anger v.**

**Bitterness** -

Greek: (3710) **orgizo** *or-gid'-zo*

Hebrew: (639) **'aph** *af*

(2534) **chemah** *khay-maw*

(3707) **kaas** *kaw-as'*

**Quotation:**

“It is the great duty of all Christians to put off anger. It unfits for duty...A man cannot wrestle with God and wrangle with his neighbor at the same time. Short sins often cost us long and sad sorrows.” Philip Henry

“It is the base and vile bramble, the fruit of the earth’s curse, that tears and rends what is next to it.” Thomas Adams

“The angry man, like the two hot disciples that called fire from heaven, ordains himself the judge, and would have God turn his executioner.” Thomas Adams

“He that will be angry, and not sin, must not be angry but for sin.” John Trapp

“Be soonest angry with thyself.” Thomas Fuller

“Anger should not be destroyed but sanctified.” William Jenkyn

**Confessions** (Look up and read these articles)

**London Baptist Confession of 1689**

Chapter 6: of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the punishment thereof - paragraphs

1-5

**PART II EXPLORATION**

**Key Questions** (*Answer in writing*)

1. What three things does the Bible expect us to do with our anger?
2. Who does the Bible refer to as being angry the most?
3. What is acceptable anger?
4. What is sinful anger?
5. How can we detect anger by our voice or words?
6. What does it mean to confront our anger?
7. Why is it absolutely necessary to confront our anger?
8. Why is anger such a difficult sin to identify and confront?
9. What is a “supposed” injury?
10. What does it mean to give place to the devil?

**Key Scriptures:**

Leviticus 10:16 Moses was angry with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Aaron because they \_\_\_\_\_ the offering.

I Kings 11:9 The Lord was angry with Solomon because his \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ from Him.

Nehemiah 5:1-5 Nehemiah displayed righteous indignation because the children of Israel were  
bringing each other into \_\_\_\_\_ because of debt.

Psalms 7:11 God is angry with the \_\_\_\_\_ every day.

Psalms 37:8 We are to \_\_\_\_\_ from anger and \_\_\_\_\_ wrath.

Psalms 103:8-9 The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ to anger but He will not \_\_\_\_\_ His anger forever.

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ words \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ up anger.

Proverbs 22:24-25 Make no \_\_\_\_\_ with an angry man lest you \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ his ways.

Nahum 1:3 The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ to anger but will not \_\_\_\_\_ the wicked.

Zephaniah 2:3 We are encouraged to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord in order to avoid the \_\_\_\_\_ of His  
anger.

Matthew 5:21-26 We have broken the sixth commandment not to kill when we are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ with our brother without \_\_\_\_\_.

Mark 3:5 Jesus was angry because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of their hearts for criticizing  
Him for healing on the Sabbath day.

**Key Chapter(s)** (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):  
Numbers 20

### **PART III EXPECTATION**

**Memory verse:** Ephesians 4:26-27

**Personal Definition:** (*Write a definition in your own words*)

anger -

**Personal Application:** Identify a time in your life when you had unrighteous indignation and  
explain what was wrong with your anger.

**Meditation question:** (*be prepared for discussion*) Why is God's anger always justified?

**Extra Credit:** Describe an instance where you received a “supposed injustice” that you later discovered was not legitimate.