

June 10, 2007

Proverbs

Anger

Aim: Have members turn to the Lord with anger problems.

1A Introduction

1B Technology, communications and information access (that is the internet), while all being great tools, can give us the *illusion* that we really don't need God nor His word. In fact, many take it even further and start believing they really don't need anybody. Oh, they might acknowledge they need others but only as tools to be used.

2B The Bible reveals to us the reality of our needful condition.
2Tim. 3:16-17.

We are doing a series of sermons from Proverbs. Last sermon from Proverbs we said:

Authority is a God given security that has a price but brings great benefits.

Cf. **Proverbs 15:5**, *A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is prudent.*

Cf. **Proverbs 6:23**, *For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.*

Now, God is the perfect parent who instructs us through His Word. He is all-wise and never makes a mistake and is always, always, looking out for His children's best interest.

Today we are going to be looking at what our Lord says about anger. Anger is so common, whether it's road rage, school fights, school shootings, nations going to war or fighting between brother and sister, we all have experienced it!

3B Do you know of someone who is quick to get angry? Do you get angry rather easily? Have you seen some damage caused by anger? Do you have any hope of things being different? Well, here is my message this morning:

Message: **God instructs us on anger; its dangers and proper handling.**

Now there is rightful anger and *un*-rightful anger. (righteous or unrighteous anger)

Rightful anger? Falsehood, **Eph. 4:25-6**, cf. **Prov. 13:5**.

The presence of lawlessness, cf. the OT prophets and the Psalms (e.g. 58)

Frustration of goals

But most of us experience the un-rightful anger, don't we?

4B Outline (we will not be covering everything about anger but here is my outline)

1C Dangers of Anger

2C Dealing with angry people

3C Benefits of not being an angry person

4C Some applications

2A Dangers of Anger

Eccl. 7:9 It is foolish to be eager to be angry

“Eager to be angry”??

Some get a “fix,” from being and expressing anger

Illustration: The adrenaline rush when individuals expressing anger by crumbling a piece of paper in my office.

A father confessing to me that it felt good to kick his son during his fits of rage!

Daniel Goldman, “high jacking of emotions.”

14:17 revealed as foolish and can lead to being evil and then hated!

20:2 Anger of leaders will cost the provoker,

14:35, when one acts shamefully the leaders get angry

Leaders: parent, teacher, coach, policeman, God!

15:1 Anger promotes anger, **30:33** and **25:23**; *but* **15:18** calmness promotes calmness

19:19 Anger will get you in trouble repeatedly.

29:22 Things just go downhill! From anger, to getting others stirred up, to increasing sin

Eph. 4:26 Lingering anger gives Satan opportunity

3A Dealing with Angry people

22:24-25 Do not associate w/those who are always or quick to get angry because you become like them **cf. 13:20; 1Cor. 15:33**.

21:14 giving, can control anger of others

(ASV) A gift in secret pacifieth anger; And a present in the bosom, strong wrath.

(Message) A quietly given gift soothes an irritable person;

a heartfelt present cools a hot temper.

15:1 Giving a gentle answer.

4A Benefits of not being an angry person

16:32 Slow to anger is better than the ability to dominate

29:8 Turning away anger is more significant than setting a whole city aflame

25:28 Lack of self-control renders one very vulnerable!!

19:11 It is to ones honor not to get angry but forgive, i.e. makes good sense not to get angry but to forgive.

14:29 Slow to anger

vs quick tempered

has and demonstrates understanding

vs displays folly, lack of understanding

Understanding??

That anger does not achieve the righteousness of God, **James 1:20**.

That anger can blind one to other possible explanations or solutions to problems

That anger can damage relationships *unnecessarily!*

Illus: Parents looking back over the years with great regrets over their anger!

Illus: Father (and some mothers) in prison for hurting their children in during fits of anger.

That anger can make things worse then what they are.

The slow to anger can see beyond the observable behavior, to motivations

Ilus: A coach questions a young boys frequent anger spells and finds out the boy is put in adult, responsible positions in his single parent home, only to have authority constantly be yanked out from him.

The slow to anger can see the more important issues involved in situations

The quick-tempered displays his lack of understanding.

14:30 A healthy, composed mind is health for the body but one given over to anger, passion, experiences rottenness of bones. **Note:** this may take years to show up. *Cf. Eccl. 5:17.*

5A **Some Applications**

1B Read the proverbs and gain wisdom!

2B **Pr. 24:17-18** The Lord may turn His anger away from those who deserve it to teach the one who rejoices at others calamity.

We must submit to the sovereign will of God in His dealing with others! If we do not then we are setting ourselves up for more frustration and anger!

Comparing is not wise!

Anger comes when we are not able to control things and we get frustrated. We need to explore our anger and let the Lord be Lord!

Am I trying to control others too much?

Am I trying to guarantee a certain outcome?

Am I trying to make others pay so I will feel better?

We must embrace our limitations and powerlessness or be under the constant dangers of anger! Especially when it comes to controlling others' internal attitudes and actions, we must embrace our limitations and powerlessness.

Accept it

Accept lose

Live with uncertainty

Live by faith that the Lord is with you and all will be well.

3B **The Gospel and the meaning of redemption!** (i.e. God's power to redeem years spent in anger).

Matt. 5:22 and Cain killing his brother Able.

Hope of change and redemption is in the Gospel!