

Righteous Anger
August Bible Study Series



**LESSON ONE:
WHAT MAKES GOD ANGRY?**



What Made Jesus Good and Angry?

Lesson Two



The Role of Righteous Anger in Christians Lesson Three

**Righteous anger is
being angry at what makes
God angry.**

**God's anger is a byproduct
of His righteousness.**



**The Lord is Slow to Anger, and
He Commands Us to Be as
Well.**

Exodus 34:6-7 (NET), The LORD passed by before him and proclaimed: “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love and faithfulness, keeping loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. But he by no means leaves the guilty unpunished, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children and children’s children, to the third and fourth generation.”

Nehemiah 9:17 (NET), They refused to obey and did not recall your miracles that you had performed among them. Instead, they rebelled and appointed a leader to return to their bondage in Egypt. But you are a God of forgiveness, merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and unfailing in your loyal love. You did not abandon them.

Psalm 103:7-9, He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive *with us*, nor will He keep *His anger* forever.

Colossians 3:12-

13, Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.



**We Must Control our Anger,
or it will Control Us.**

James 1:20, Be slow to become angry, because man's anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.


Proverbs 14:17, A quick tempered man does foolish things.

Proverbs 16:32, Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.

Proverbs 27:4, Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming.

**Matthew 5:22, I tell you that
anyone who is angry with a
brother will be subject to
judgment.**

Ephesians 4:31-32, Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice,” calling us instead to “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.



It is no secret that anger, when unchecked, can bring destruction to our bodies, our relationships, our families, and our communities.



**“Anger is a condition in which
the tongue works faster than
the mind.”**



**MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER
JUDGMENT**


**One of the temptations of sinful anger is to become judgmental.
We must allow the Lord to be judge, not ourselves.**

James 2:13 (NIV), Because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Luke 9:54-55, And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.

Matthew 5:43-47, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?



“The most miserable prison in the world is the prison we make for ourselves when we refuse to show mercy.”




**Four Ways to Protect Yourself
from Sinful Anger while
Benefiting from Righteous
Anger:**



**1. Allow God to Evaluate Your
Anger to Determine if it is Rightful
or Sinful.**

- a. It will react against actual sin.**
- b. It focuses on God's concern, not yours.**
- c. It is accompanied by other godly qualities.**
- d. It moves toward a peaceful resolution.**



**“What am I loving so much
right now that my heart is
moved to feel angry?”**



2. Be Quick to Repent of Sinful Anger.

a. Recognize “fights and quarrels” are generally rooted in our own sinful desires.

James 4:1-3, Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

**b. Consider what you may be
wrongfully desiring more than
the Lord.**



**3. Allow Rightful Anger to
Guide You to Godly Action.**

a. Be sure you are not overreacting and consider overlooking the offense.

Proverbs 19:11, A man's wisdom yields patience, and it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 20:3, It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

**b. Be sure to remove the log
in your own eye before
judging the speck in
another's eye.**

Matthew 7:3-5, and why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

c. Lovingly and humbly confront those who have sinned, with a readiness to forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Romans 12:18-19, If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.



**4. On a Societal Level, when
Confronting Injustice, Leverage
Righteous Anger as a Force for
Good.**

- a. Continue lamenting to God and trust Him to hear your cries.**
- b. Seek to be as informed as possible about the issues and the people who are being affected.**
- c. Appeal to authorities about injustice.**

Acts 25:9-12, Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?” Paul answered: “I am now standing before Caesar’s court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well.

If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!”

d. Take peaceful and loving action.



**“If we all got angry
together something might
be done.”**

e. Support churches and ministries that are committed to the gospel, sound doctrine, and biblical values as they make a difference in confronting injustice.

1 Timothy 4:15-16, Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

f. Share the gospel to address the root problem of sin and separation from God.

g. Continue guarding your heart from sinful anger.

- . Christians have forgotten how to hate strongly and rightfully the things that God hates.**
- . Christians have been guilty of a passive acceptance of all kinds of evil in our world which they should have opposed with all their might.**
- . A Christian can be rightfully angry over some sin which another person has committed against him or her.**
- . We tend to think that whenever we are angry, it is rightfully so.**

A Call to Action:

- **Do you ask others their opinion of your anger? If not, why not?**
- **Are you the only person you allow to judge your anger?**
- **Does your anger have redemptive (or restorative) purposes?**
- **Does the Spirit of God control your anger?**
- **When you are angry, do you sense the Spirit of God**

managing the force of your anger?