

No More Anger

Scripture

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” (James 1:19-20 NKJV)

Commentary

My family participates in several sporting activities, and we see a lot coach & son relationships. Inevitably, the coach's kid has to live up to a different standard than all the other kids. Dad is demanding, and the kid has difficulty responding because of dad's pressure. This makes things even more heated. If this goes too far, eventually the kid just shuts down, and dad usually regrets the way he treated his son. As much as dad wanted to see his son perform well, his own anger and frustration produced something quite different.

The Scriptures are clear that the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. We get frustrated with our brothers because they do things that are clearly wrong. When they don't take our advice, we are tempted to get angry. The danger in this kind of response is manifold. As it is written, “A quick-tempered [man] acts foolishly. . .” (Proverbs 14:17 NKJV)

We should model ourselves after Christ. “The LORD [is] gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.” (Psalms 145:8 NKJV) What do we have to be angry at anyway? Do we not all sin? “Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.” (Ecclesiastes 7:9 NKJV)

If we want to see things improve, we must seek that change with patience. “[He who is] slow to anger [is] better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.” (Proverbs 16:32 NKJV)

Sure, you might get your way here and there, but what damage will you incur along the way both to those around you and your own reputation? “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but [rather] give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance [is] Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:19-21 NKJV)

Remember, “. . . that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.” (Matthew 5:22 NKJV)

Therefore, purpose to avoid anger today. “The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory [is] to overlook a transgression.” (Proverbs 19:11 NKJV) Be wise my dear friends, for the Lord is watching over you.

Prayer

Father, what a blessing it is to be at peace with you. Your infinite grace has spared those who trust in you the fierceness of your righteous wrath. Lord, forgive us when we forget our place and make ourselves judges. Teach us to walk in humility like your precious Son Jesus who laid down His life a ransom. God, we cannot fully comprehend such great love! Glory to you in the highest! Amen.