

Angry People Sin against the Lord

By Leon King

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: -- *Ephesians 4:26*. What does it mean to be angry? The words angry and wrath come from two Greek words "οργιζο" (or-gid'-zo) and "παροργισμος" (par-org-is-mos') which simply mean angry, wrath, indignation, or exasperation.

Wrath is the product of the fallen nature and has no part of the gentleness produced by the Holy Spirit. *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication...**wrath**, strife, seditions, heresies*, -- Galatians 5:19-20. God's people are admonished to put off these things because they are contrary to the sweet and gentle nature of the inward man.

*Let all **bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking**, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.* -- Ephesians 4:31-32.

1. Our reputation is according to what we do and not what we intend to do.

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work <be> pure, and whether it be right. -- Proverbs 20:11. It is not the provocations that come our way that tell on us, but our reaction to those things as they do come. Anger and wrath are generally reactions to things outside our person.

**"Just a little secret between thee and me,
Folks are just what you see them to be,
At least our repute is brought into view
By the continual deeds we actually do.**

**So, as we live our lives from day to day,
Let's be careful what we do and say,
Extinguish any seething anger; you can
Lest you get a name as an angry man.**

**For people can see you inflame and glow,
As malicious words from our tongues do flow
From uncontrolled lips drawn taunt by the flame
Of anger let loose and thereby gain a 'name.'"**

2. Jesus Warned About Anger in the Sermon on the Mount.

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. -- Matthew 5:22.

3. God's People are instructed to put off Anger and Wrath.

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: {6} For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: {7} In the which ye

also walked some time, when ye lived in them. {8} But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. -- Colossians 3:5-8.

4. The Wrath of Man Never Works the Righteousness of God.

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: {20} For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. -- James 1:19-20.

5. Preachers, Especially, and Others Are Foolish for Quick Anger.

The fact is, that a man who has a disposition toward quick anger is not qualified to hold the office of a bishop, yet we see this characteristic displayed by some who hold that office. It is not a good thing for anyone to have a "short fuse." Men often boast - and are proud of their hot head and quick temper. How foolish!

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; -- Titus 1:7.

He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated. -- Proverbs 14:17.

6. People Who are Slow to Anger are Better Than the Mighty.

<He that is> slow to anger <is> better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. -- Proverbs 16:32.

A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. -- Proverbs 15:18.

7. It is Better to Have No Friends, Than to Befriend an Angry Person.

Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul. --Proverbs 22:24-25.

Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?" — Proverbs 27:4.

An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression. -- Proverbs 29:22.

8. Edifying Words and Control of Anger are Vitally Connected.

No person can edify others who cannot or will not control his tongue - and squelch his anger.

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. -- Proverbs 15:1.

The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and <it is> his glory to pass over a transgression. -- Proverbs 19:11.

9. It is Sin for Fathers or Mothers to Provoke Their Children to Anger.

Parents will do well to consider this passage about the rearing of their children. Children who are repeatedly subjected to parents who provoke them to anger will be discouraged and confused.

Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. -- Colossians 3:21.

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. -- Ephesians 6:4.

10. A Virtuous Woman is a Blessing to Her House - An Angry and Contentious Woman is a Blight.

It is an unspeakable blessing to live in peace with a godly woman who possesses a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of the Lord, of great price. How unspeakably distressing it is to be chained to an angry and contentious woman. The wife and mother in a house usually sets the mood for the house.

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. -- Proverbs 21:19.

It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. -- Proverbs 21:9.

It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house. -- Proverbs 25:24.

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. -- Proverbs 27:15.

May all of us avail ourselves to the grace of God, which works in us to put to death this distressing work of the flesh! Whether we be man, woman, or child, we need the power of the Spirit of the Living God to mortify this deed of the flesh. If you are fighting this particular battle, dear brother or sister, don't despair, but lean strongly on the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, the person who can control his tongue and learn to speak a word in season is a great blessing.

For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. -- James 3:2.