

THEME: SEVEN DEADLY PASSIONS – ANGER

TOPIC: THE CONTROLLING POWER OF ANGER.

**TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:26-27; JAMES 1:19-20; PROVERBS 15:1; 14:29;
COLOSSIANS 3:8; ROMANS 12-19-21; Psalm 37:8**

INTRODUCTION

Anger can become sinful when it is motivated by pride, when it is unproductive and thus distorts God's purposes, or when anger is allowed to linger. One obvious sign that anger has turned to sin is when, instead of attacking the problem at hand, we attack the wrongdoer.

Anger becomes sin when it is allowed to boil over without restraint, resulting in a scenario in which hurt is multiplied, leaving devastation in its wake. Often, the consequences of out-of-control anger are irreparable. Anger also becomes sin when the angry one refuses to be pacified, holds a grudge, or keeps it all inside. This can cause depression and irritability over little things, which are often unrelated to the underlying problem.

We continue our study of Anger today by looking at the "Controlling Power of Anger".

THE CONTROLLING POWER OF ANGER

When Dinah the daughter of Jacob was raped by their neighbours, such a dastardly act offended the sons of Jacob. However, the reaction of Simeon and Levi to take a revenge led to the deception of the people of the land, calling them out to be circumcised before they could have her hand in marriage.

They killed and plundered the people of Hamor and Shechem with the edge of the sword because of their anger. They took all their belongings. ***Genesis 34:26-27***

It provoked their father so that at his departure he rather cursed the anger of Simeon and Levi. They ended up being the smallest tribes in their later years. Anger made them instruments of cruelty and people to be avoided. ***Gen. 49:5-7.***

- a. Anger can be deadly, a controlling force. It is one letter short of danger.
- b. Anger can bring intense embarrassment to a man. What married man has not, in moments of anger, said the things he regretted when it was all over?
- c. How many have had to go back sheepishly to their in-laws to apologise for the things they have said.
- d. In moments of anger the product of your speech is unwholesome words.
- e. Anger produces irrational behaviours that makes you to act out of character.
- f. It could become so controlling. Anger leads people into aggressive reaction to situations. Once it is a controlling force the reactions of the persons it controls becomes aggressive.
- g. It wounds others without care or concern. The angry are themselves emotionally callous and in moments of anger, the words and actions you carry out are not properly weighed until the fury and rage is all over. **1 Samuel 2:3**
- h. Anger can dominate the communication. Once people are in that anger mode, their communication skills is messed up and whatever they are sharing in moments of anger is done purely out of defence and the manifestation of the flesh.

- i. There is no attempt to understand the other side because a cunning part of anger is the constant self-justification which tells you that you are doing alright.
- j. Anger isolates the individual. It destroys homes, separates friends, hurts relationships, polarises people and poisons the root of relationship.
- k. Anger leads to fights. An angry man is a potential fighter. Once he engages his mind in a state in which he believes that his actions are right. It is worth noting, you are not in the right frame of mind when angry.
- l. However the angry man believes he is right. It is only later, when he is all calm that he sees the folly of his action and repents of the things he has said or done.
- m. Anger has a morning after effect. It leaves you embarrassed and feeling ashamed that you have done the things you did.
- n. Anger can be volcanic or fiery. The fury of anger fires up people, pumps them up, their heart is beating, the mind no longer thinks, they give place to the devil and he pushes them to carry out what is totally unwholesome, fleshly and out of character.

Anger separates the best of friends.

This cunning, wicked passion, once it has the control of people, it has separated the best of friends so that people no longer greet each other or talk, causing them to go to great length to avoid the other person.

- a. Consider the conspiracy of the magicians against Daniel. ***Daniel 6:4-6***
- b. Consider the conspiracy of the leaders who rose against the three Hebrew men. ***Daniel 3:12***.
- c. Consider the conspiracy of the brothers of David and the fact that one in particular, in anger, had said that David came to see the battle, objecting to David's presence on the day David would go from obscurity to prominence. ***1 Samuel 17:28***
- d. Consider the conspiracy of the brothers of Joseph. When the scriptures says, they hated him so much for his dreams. ***Genesis 37:5***

CONCLUSION

We can handle anger biblically by recognizing and admitting our prideful anger and/or our wrong handling of anger as sin (**Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9**). This confession should be both to God and to those who have been hurt by our anger. We should not minimize the sin by excusing it or blame-shifting.