

Fools and their Anger

By Travis Main

Tom is driving down the road. He has his radio playing light jazz and he is moving along with the speed of the end of the day traffic. His mind is paying attention to the surroundings about him, but he is also thinking about the weekend soon to come. He is really looking forward to getting home to his wife and children. Presently, he hears loud long blasts of a car horn next to him. When he turns his head to look he observes another man all red faced, eyes bulging, apparently screaming at the top of his lungs. The man's voice cannot be heard through two closed windows, road noise, and the radio, but it is obvious he is not trying to share a prayer. Quite clearly, he does mention God's name a few times and makes a number of crude gestures. Next, he swiftly accelerates down the road weaving in and out of traffic. "What was that about?" Tom thinks to himself, then he mutters, "What a fool." Fools and Their Anger

Situations like Tom's happen every single day in cities across the world. There are incidents when it is very clear why the anger is being demonstrated and other times when the recipient of the anger has no idea what is going on. "Road Rage" is not the only form of anger that man encounters each day. Whether at work, the shopping center, a sporting event, or at home, sad performances of anger are not infrequent. Unfortunately, many occurrences of anger will escalate into physical confrontations and injury to property or persons. Anger often engages the two characteristics of fools that have been discussed in this series thus far: disobedience to God's will and uncontrolled speech. These are sinful works of the flesh and anger can certainly be sinful.

Galatians 5:19-21 – Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

It may be surprising to some to see anger included in a list such as this. It is and it carries the same penalty as the other sins mentioned. However, a discussion of consequences is to be saved for the final article in this series. The objective here is to understand the relationship between fools and anger. As with both disobedience and the speech of a fool, anger and the behaviors that go with it are a choice. Contemplate the following example and the likely difference between the reactions to a stray, growling tea cup poodle that has stolen a hot dog off a man's plate, and a stray, growling German Shepherd that has stolen a hot dog. The tea cup poodle is probably hollered at and either stomped into the ground or punted 50 yards away. The German Shepherd is more likely spoken to gently and calmly while the owner of the hot dog backs away. The same event happened, but with different results. What was the difference? The difference was the choice to exert self control instead of exploding in anger.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 – Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

The Bible is once again clear as to the behavior of fools. The term "hasty" used in the verse above means "quickly". Consider these other verses which mention the same issue in regard to the foolish.

Proverbs 12:16 – A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.

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

A "prudent man" or wise man, "covereth shame". This means he holds his anger in and does not shame himself. He understands that with such anger a poor example is given. The man who has no control over his temper loses influence and respect. Now it is at this point, that critics of the Biblical prescription for behaviors will point out that God is presented as wrathful or angry (**1 Kings 11:9-10, John 3:36**) as well as Jesus when he walked the earth (**Mark 3:5, John 2:13-17**). There is no need to deny such occurrences, but understanding is in order. Examine the following:

Ephesians 4:26 – Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

In this passage anger is commanded, but anger with the absence of sin. Such anger is called righteous indignation. It does not diminish with the falling of the sun, but always burns against sin. The anger is best understood as a form of disappointment. God does not want man to do things which bring harm to himself and others. Christ did not want to see men reject the commands of God or defile the holy things of God. In their anger, no sin was committed. Yet, often with man, we see sinful anger. It is an anger which is chosen and exercised with blasphemy, vanity, and intent to harm. It is anger which is not controlled but a swift and raging storm which brings destruction. Yes, anger is commanded against sin. However, the wise man with self control approaches anger with a patient concern for the recipient as God does.

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

James 1:19 – Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Titus 1:7 – 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;

Psalms 103:8-9 – The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

That sinful anger exists and is a temptation is certainly a fact. Every young man's testosterone rages at times. Shamefully, such behavior is often carried through into adulthood. Jobs are lost. Friendships are severed. Marriages are shattered. Lives can be destroyed. All of these because foolish choices resulted in poor behavior. And without a doubt, these behaviors are not only applicable to males. Women too make such mistakes. Words are hurled, violence is engaged, and reputations deeply scarred because of ungodly behavior. The realization of the battle that exists to control such actions is indeed great and at times the anger is aimed even at God.

Proverbs 27:3 – A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.

Proverbs 19:3 – The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.

The greatest shame for a fool is not in the loss of control, but a refusal to change course. God desires man to change his ways (**Luke 13:3, Revelation 3:19**). God will forgive (**1 John 1:9**). A number of people when they foolishly rage, come to erroneously believe that God cannot forgive. He will forgive and he will give strength to those who come to him and ask for it (**Philippians 4:13, Romans 8:31**). The question is: if a man has been a fool with regard to anger, will he make the choice to change?

Colossians 3:8 – But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Things you should know about!

Communion is available as you come in the building, please take only what is needed for today. Hold on to the emblems until the proper time.

Happy Birthday!!!

Jonathan Rohr & Josiah Rohr 3/12

Brennan Arrell 3/19

If you would like to contribute to the Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, you can give money to Jason or place in the offering plate.

Please be sure to mark it accordingly.

North End Church of Christ Youth Rally - Parkersburg, WV
Friday and Saturday, March 11-12

See John if you have a teen that is interested in going.

Next month's potluck will be on March 13th.

It is also Daylight Savings day, so don't forget to change your clocks!!

March 20th brief Men's meeting after AM service.

If you have items that need discussed, please see John or Jason.

Serving today and next Sunday:

Sunday AM Rotation	February 27, 2022	March 6, 2022
Announcements	John McGiffin	Sam Martin
Song Leading	Sam Martin	Owen Whittington
Opening Prayer	Jason Bang	Jerry Thompson
Lord's Supper Comments	Jerry Thompson	Tim Bang
Scripture Reading	Jason Bang	Chris McGiffin
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer	Chris McGiffin	Duane Kemp

Please call John or email him at jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com with any prayer requests or announcements you may have for the congregation.

Bible Verse of the Week

"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone." James 1:13

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Lord's Supper Reflection 2020 -Why Did Jesus Die?

Jesus Death Released us from our Sins

"... and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood..." Revelation 1:5

Offering Meditation

Your Gift to God is to be Done Cheerfully

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.... Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God..." 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

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Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders, Ukraine crisis
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- *Freddy Mollhollen (friend of the McGiffin's) - just found out he's got cancer
- *Michelle Leugers (Carol Kemp's niece) - is waiting for results from tests ran to see if she had a stroke.
- *Evelyn Lam - will be having wrist surgery on March 3rd.
- *Debbie Huesman (Sam Martin's Aunt) - is recovering from bypass surgery.
- *Doug Hoff and family grieving the loss of his mother, Miriam Miller.
- *Stephanie Bang's family grieving the loss of her Uncle Jim Jackson.

- *Ray Miller (Sam Martin's grandpa) - had a stroke and has heart failure, the family is preparing for hospice to come in for care.
- *Tom Cruz (Phyllis Caldwell's nephew) - having health issues, will be moving to OH soon
- *Delores Fox (Tim & Dianna's daughter) - having health issues
- *Ronnie Martin (Sam Martin's uncle) - health issues
- *Michael Whitsel (gentleman we've helped with benevolence) - asked for prayers for his mother who is in a nursing home, her sister recently passed away.

How can we be praying for YOU?

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Attendance and Contribution Record

Sunday, February 20	Wednesday, February 23
Bible Classes 27	Attendance 26
AM Attendance 36	
PM Attendance 38	Contribution \$1,348.00

Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



February 27, 2022

Worship Times:

- Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am
- Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd
Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting, you are our honored guests and we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.