

Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Cardinal Virtues

Scott Matz

Christ Our King Presbyterian Church, Columbia, MO

ANGER

Psalm 7:6

Arise, O Lord, in your anger; rise up against the rage of my enemies. Awake, my God; decree justice.

Eph 4:26,31-32

²⁶ In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

When is anger NOT a sin?

- God's anger
 - Aimed at injustice for the purpose of enacting justice
 - Response to sin
 - Glorifies His name
- God's calling
 - Ehud the left-handed **Judges 3:12-30**
- Resentment toward unrighteousness

When is anger a sin?

- When it is in excess
 - Age old dispute
 - Kashmir
 - Israel and Palestine
 - Begin
 - *Behind the Sun*, 1999
 - When the blood-stained shirt dries
 - Especially when those involved lack self-control
- When it is wrongly directed
 - Appropriate anger
 - Against sin
 - Sodom, Ninevah
 - Inappropriate anger
 - Against authority
 - Children against their parents
 - People against God
 - People against the government
 - Terrorism
 - Assassination

- When its manifestations are sinful themselves
 - Revenge, **Rom 12:17-19**
 - Abortion clinic bombings
 - Parents' anger toward their children
 - Provoking children, **Col 3:21**

What attitudes lead to sinful anger?

- When one has a feeling of entitlement, **1 Peter 2:23**
 - "I'm a victim!"
 - Bernie Goetz
 - "My rights have been violated"
- When no other solutions appear available
 - "This isn't working out the way I thought it would/should!"
 - Eric Rudolph, Paul Hill
 - They call it "Righteous Anger"

The Problems with Unrighteous Anger

- Destroys relationships
- Is on our own terms
- Considers our feelings first
- Quickly moves beyond our best intentions
- Rarely has an attainable goal in mind
 - Just to let the other person know we're angry
- Almost always builds rather than dissipates

Where to turn in anger

- The Cross, **Luke 23:32-34**
- Patience from the Holy Spirit ("Count to 10" is a Biblical principle)