

Anger & Forgiveness

1. Ephesians 4:26-32: *“In your **anger (orge)** do not sin (Psalm 4:4): Do not let the sun go down while you are still **angry (paraorgismos)**, and do not give the Devil a foothold...Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all **bitterness, rage (thumos)** and **anger (orge)**, **brawling and slander**, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionated to one another, **forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**”*

A. “Anger” is the Greek word **“orge,”** which translates: *“any natural impulse, or desire, or disposition, to signify anger, as the strongest of all passions. It is used of the wrath of man (Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; I Timothy 2:8; James 1:19,20...the anger of the Lord Jesus (Mark 3:5; 11:15, John 2:13; 3:36); God’s anger (Hebrews 3:11; 4:3; Romans 1:18; 2:5; 9:22; I Thessalonians 2:16; John 3:36)”*

B. “Angry” is the Greek word **“paraorgismos,”** which translates: *“a strengthened form of orge, and used in Ephesians 4:26, ‘provocation,’ points especially to that which provokes the wrath...the Hebrew word (Psalm 4:4) signifies to quiver with strong emotion.”*

C. “Rage” or “wrath” is the Greek word **“thumos:”** *“Is to be distinguished from **orge (anger)**, in this respect, that **thumos (rage or wrath)** indicates a more agitated condition of the feelings, an outburst of wrath from inward indignation, while **orge (anger)** suggests a more settled or abiding condition of mind...**Orge (anger)** is less sudden in its rise than **thumos (rage or wrath)**, but more lasting in its nature. **Thumos (rage or wrath)** expresses more the inward feeling, **orge (anger)** the more active emotion.”*

D. God and Jesus got angry at times. Anger in itself is not sin; but if left burning long enough, it’s going to boil over into sin!

1. Verse 29 says it will first boil over into **“unwholesome talk.”**

2. Then, if it is not controlled, and you go to bed angry (**verse 29**); **verse 31** says you will wake up with **“bitterness.”**

3. If you continue to let the anger burn, the bitterness will turn into **“rage (thumos),”** or an **“outburst of wrath.”**

4. If you let the anger still continue to burn, the rage will turn into **“brawling,”** or physical violence (either to something or someone).

5. Then, the brawling will turn into **“slander, or evil speaking,”** about the one or ones you’re angry with, and sometimes about everything and everyone.

6. And, if you have let your anger evolve this far, it will turn into “**malice**,” which is the Greek word “**kakia**,” which literally translates: “*vicious wickedness*.” Thoughts of evil will replace the thoughts of good. You won’t be able to find good in anything or anyone; your thoughts will be only of **revenge**!

7. Romans 12:17-21: “Do not repay anyone **evil (malice) for evil (malice)**. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, **as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge**, my friends, but leave room for God’s **wrath (orge)**, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord (**Deuteronomy 32:35**). On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head’ (**Proverbs 25:21,22**). Do not be overcome by **evil (malice)**, but overcome **evil (malice)** with good.”

C. The sin isn’t the anger. The sin is when you fail to control your anger and let it evolve into malice (revenge on the people who anger you). So, how do you escape?

1. Verse 32: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, **forgiving** each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

2. How many times do you have to forgive someone? Read Matthew 18:21-35:

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’

Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven).’

‘Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king (**God**) who wanted to settle accounts with his servants (**us**). As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents (**several million dollars or sins**) was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt (**sin**).

The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything’ (**repented**). The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt (**sins**) and let him go (**forgave him**).

But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants (**brothers**) who owed him (**sinned against him**) a hundred denarii (**100 times a days wage for a poor person**). He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back’ (**repented**).

But he refused (**to forgive him**). Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt (**his anger boiled over into “unwholesome talk,” “bitterness,” “rage,” “brawling,” “slander,” and “malice” — Ephesians 4:29**). When the other servants (**Christians**) saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master (**God**) everything that had happened.

Then the master called the servant in (as he had done the first time when he forgave him). ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled (**forgave**) all that debt (**sin**) of yours because you begged me to (**repented**). Shouldn’t you have had mercy (**forgiveness**) on your fellow

servant (who also begged for forgiveness, or repented) just as I had on you?’ In anger (orge) his master (God) turned him over to the jailers (condemned to Hell) until he should pay back all he owed (he also would never get out, because only God can forgive your debts or sins).

This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart’.”

A. Matthew 7:1,2: *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

B. Matthew 5:22: *“But I (Jesus) tell you that anyone who is **angry (orge)** with his brother without cause will be subject to judgment.”* When you stand before God, will your anger keep you from forgiving, and therefore condemn you?

C. Matthew 6:14,15: *For if you **forgive** men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

3. So, Jesus said I have to forgive everyone whether they repent or not? Not according to Luke 17:3: *“If your brother sins, **rebuke him**. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says **‘I repent,’** forgive him.”*

A. If you noticed, both men in this story sinned and owed a debt they couldn’t repay. The first man repented at the beginning, and God forgave him because he asked for forgiveness (**repented**); but then he refused to forgive someone who sinned against him, even though he begged for forgiveness (**repented**). This action showed God that he really had no intentions on repenting (**or change his heart**) as he tried to make God believe... **so God took back His forgiveness, and condemned the man!**

B. Read what Jesus said just before he told this parable — Matthew 18:15-17: *“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses’ (Deuteronomy 19:15). If he refuses to listen to them (**repent**), tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, **treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector (who they were not allowed to associate with).**”*

1. So, if you’re angry with someone, before you go to bed and let that anger boil over into *malice*; go and try to straighten it out. If they listen (**repent**), forgive them; if they do not, then stay away from them!

2. Jesus told his disciples in **Luke 9:4,5; Acts 13:51; 18:6:** *“shake the dust from your feet.”*

3. Jesus also said in **Matthew 7:6**: “Don’t give your pearls to pigs or they will trample them under their feet and tear you to pieces!”

C. When Jesus was crucified, he looked down from the cross on all the people who put Him there, and said in **Luke 23:34**: “Father, forgive them...” Why didn’t Jesus say: “I forgive you!”? Because they were neither repentant for the sin they had committed, nor were they asking for forgiveness. So, Jesus handed them over to God.

(1) Did God forgive all of those who killed Jesus? Remember, only one thief who died next to Jesus went to *Paradise*; and according to **Acts 2:38**, God only *forgave* those who *repented* and were *baptized*!

4. Remember **Romans 12:5**: Vengeance belongs to the Lord; it is His job to repay what they have done to you. So, if they don’t want your forgiveness (**repent**), you **can’t** forgive them, only God can.

A. **Read Matthew 18:15-17** again (**3-B**). Jesus said to stay away from them, and let God deal with them.