

Wake Union Baptist Church

*“Where the good news of Jesus Christ
is proclaimed in truth and love”*

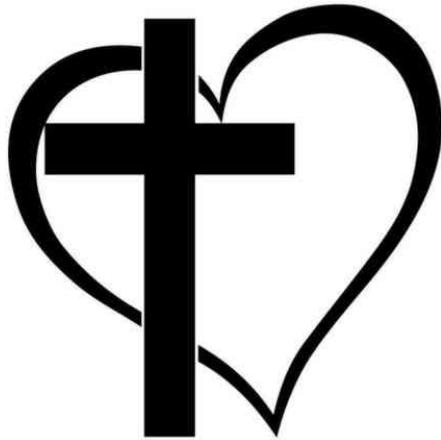
The Lord’s Day

June 6, 2021

HE SAVED US,
NOT BECAUSE OF
RIGHTEOUS THINGS
WE HAVE DONE,
BUT BECAUSE OF
HIS MERCY

TITUS 3:5

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ANGER

UNCONTROLLED ANGER, When does anger become sin?

BIBLE READING: Genesis 4:1–16 (Key Verse: 6)

Uncontrolled anger will lead to sin. The Bible does not say why God rejected Cain's offering. Perhaps Cain's attitude was improper, or perhaps his offering was not up to God's standards. God evaluates both our motives and the quality of what we offer Him. When we give to God and others, we should have a joyful heart because of what we are able to give.

How do you react when someone suggests you have done something wrong? Do you move to correct the mistake or deny that you need to correct it? After Cain's offering was rejected, God gave him the chance to right his wrong and try again. God even encouraged him to do this! But Cain refused, and the rest of his life is a startling example of what happens to those who refuse to admit their mistakes. The next time someone suggests you are wrong, take an honest look at yourself and choose God's way instead of Cain's.

BIBLE READING: Genesis 27:1–41 (Key Verse: 41)

Anger is often the result of bad decisions. Esau was so angry at Jacob that he failed to see his own wrong in giving away his birthright in the first place. Jealous anger keeps us from seeing the benefits we have and makes us dwell on what we don't have.

When Esau lost the valuable family blessing, his future suddenly changed. Reacting in anger, he decided to kill Jacob. When some people lose something of great value, or if others conspire against them and succeed, anger can be the first and most natural reaction. But you can control your feelings by (1) recognizing your reaction for what it is; (2) praying for strength; and (3) asking God for help to see the opportunities that even your bad situation may provide.

BIBLE READING: James 3:1–12 (Key Verse: 6)

Anger's choice tool is sometimes the tongue. James compares the damage the tongue can do to a raging fire—the tongue's wickedness has its source in hell itself. The uncontrolled tongue can do terrible damage. Satan can use the tongue to divide people and pit them against one another. Idle words can be damaging. We should not be careless with our words. Sometimes, a few words spoken in anger can damage/destroy a relationship that took years to build. Before you speak, remember that words are like fire that can be very damaging.

CONTROLLED ANGER, How can we be angry without sinning?

BIBLE READING: Mark 3:5 (Key Verse 5)

Anger can be a holy response to sin. Jesus was angry about the Pharisees' uncaring attitudes. Anger itself is not wrong. It depends on what makes us angry and what we do with our anger. Too often we express our anger in selfish and harmful ways. By contrast, Jesus expressed his anger by correcting a problem. Use your anger to find constructive solutions rather than tear people down.

BIBLE READING: Mark 11:15–19 (Key Verse: 17)

Anger does not have to lead to sin. Jesus became angry, but he did not sin. There is a place for righteous indignation. Christians are right to be upset about sin and injustice and should take a stand against them. Unfortunately, believers are often passive about these important issues and instead get angry over personal insults and petty irritations. Make sure your anger is directed toward the right issues.

How does God express His anger?

BIBLE READING: Romans 1:18–32 (Key Verse: 18)

God's anger is directed at sin. Why is God angry at sinful people? Because they have substituted the truth about Him with a fantasy of their own imagination (Romans 1:25). They have stifled the truth God naturally reveals to all people in order to believe anything that supports their own self-centered lifestyles. God cannot tolerate sin because His nature is morally perfect. He cannot ignore or condone such willful rebellion. He wants to remove the sin and restore the sinner—if the sinner does not distort or reject the truth. But His anger erupts against those who persist in sinning.

We confirm our link with sinful human nature by our own sins. Death is the result of Adam's sin and of the sins we all commit, even if they don't resemble Adam's. Paul reminds his readers that for thousands of years the law had not yet been explicitly given, and yet people died. The law was added, he explains in Romans 5:20, to help people see their sinfulness, to show them the seriousness of their offenses, and to drive them to God for mercy and pardon. This was true in Moses' day, and it is still true today. Sin is a deep rupture between who we are and who we were created to be. The law points out our sin and places the responsibility for it squarely on our shoulders. When we are convicted of sin, we must turn to Jesus for healing and redemption.

Mad, Angry

1. Is it OK to get angry if someone puts me down?
2. When is it wrong to get angry?
3. What can I do when I feel really angry?

Answer the Questions above, by looking at the Scriptures below:

- Gen. 4:5
- 1 Sam. 18:8
- 2 Kings 5:12
- 2 Chronicles. 16:10
- Esther 3:5
- Amos 1:11
- Luke 4:28
- Luke 6:11
- Acts 19:28
- James 1:20

After you're finished, read the text at the bottom of the page.

"Be slow to anger." Lashing out in anger only makes conflicts worse. Whenever you feel angry, give yourself time to cool off before you do or say anything.

Sermon Points on Genesis 4

- 1) The Beginning of Kin (1-2)
- 2) The Better Cause (3-8)
- 3) The Bitter Consequence (9-16)

Questions and Concepts

The Life of Cain

A Name. Ancient people believed that a name expressed the essence of the thing or person named. The right to name someone was authority to pronounce his nature (see Genesis 2:19).

1. Did Cain repent of his sin (see 4:13-14)? How can you tell?
2. Are you your brother's keeper (see 4:9)? Specifically what does your answer imply for your responsibilities?
3. What do you learn about Cain's character from the way he treated and spoke of his brother (see 4:8-9)?
4. Do you in any ways treat God or other people as Cain did? If so, how?

God

others

City (4:17). "The Hebrew for this word can refer to any permanent settlement, however small. Cain tried to redeem himself from his wandering state by the activity of his own hands—in the land of wandering he builds a city."³

5. a. Cain's attitudes toward God and man landed him in the situation of 4:12-17. What happened to Cain?
 - b. How is modern life without God like Cain's situation?