

What Should Be Your Number One Aim in Life?

Part 14 2019



Your greatest aim in life...

“To love God, to fear Him, to keep His commandments, to hate
evil” and to do good.

Greatest Aim in Life – Scriptural Support

- *“To love God...” – 1 Cor 14:1 TLB *Let love be your greatest aim;**
- *“To fear Him...” – Prov 9:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,...**
- *“To keep His commandments...” – John 14:15 *If you love Me, keep My commandments.**
- *“To hate evil...” – Ps 97:10 *You who love the Lord, hate evil!**
- *“To do good...” – Ex 33:19 *Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you,..." (also Rom 12:21... overcome evil with good)**

Your greatest aim in life...

“To love God, to fear Him, to keep His commandments, to hate
evil” and to do good.

Why?

“That Others May Live”!!!

Our Desire Is To Grow

From “What’s in it for me” to “What’s in it for God”

“Needy Mentality” to “Needed Mentality”

“Love from God” to “Love for God”

Today's Message – Part 14

“How to Control Your Anger”



(1 Cor 13/5 NIV....Love is not easily angered,....)

(1 Cor 13:5 NKJV....Love is not provoked,....)

We Live in an Angry World

- *Every day, you are able to witness anger in action: work, violence, road rage, domestic violence, battered women, child abuse, rioting in the streets and campus universities, politics, movies, TV shows, local, national & world news, school classrooms, video games, sports, in families & other relationships, and even in so called peaceful demonstrations.*
- *Anger is everywhere.*
- *Cut me off in traffic or show some disrespect towards me, and you may see some anger displayed by me (passive aggressive anger or blatant anger). We all have anger issues to overcome.*

We Live in an Angry World

- Thousands of Anger Management courses are available and even businesses like the one in Houston, Texas called "Tantrums" where you will find such instruments as baseball bats, crowbars, golf clubs, lead pipes, sledgehammers to smash TVs, furniture, glassware, etc. to release anger.
- Mark Twain: "Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured."
- Anger not only hurts those who receive it but also hurts those who deliver it.

The Problem Is Not Anger – It's How You Deal With It

- *The anger emotion has been with us since Biblical times, but it seems that we are more and more losing sight of how to deal with anger....so anger is not a new emotion.*
- *Eph 4:26-27 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.*
- *Being angry is not a sin. God gets angry so there is righteous anger. There is sinful anger and there is righteous anger...it is righteous if it serves God's righteous purposes and sinful if it serves your selfish purposes.*

The Problem Is Not Anger – It's How You Deal With It

- *If one's anger prods us to proper-righteous actions, it is good. If it prods us to hurt oneself or hurt others, it is bad.*
- *Self-control is the issue:*
 - *Gal 5:19-26 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, . . . hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, . . . 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, . . . self-control. Against such there is no law. . . . 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*
- *The problem – is it appropriately or inappropriately expressed.*

Unfortunately, most of us did not learn how to deal with anger from our parents, or at school, in business, and even in some churches.

So, let's see what the Bible says about the appropriate way to deal with this human emotion...anger.

Six things that we can do to help lower the sinful anger level in our society.

1) *Make up your mind that you will control your anger.*

- *Quit saying, “I can’t control it!” Stop making excuses that you can’t control your anger.*
- *Anger is a choice. When you get angry, you are choosing to get angry. Nobody is forcing you to get angry...nobody can make you angry without your permission. If you get angry, it’s because you have chosen to get angry...chosen to listen to the pulls of the flesh instead of the fruits of the Spirit.*
- *Example: Your having a heavy yelling argument with someone in your family...an important person suddenly phones; immediately your voice changes and you sound nice.*

1) *Make up your mind that you will control your anger.*

- *Prov 29:11 NIV A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.*
- *“Keeps” in this verse means it’s a choice....when I get angry, I am choosing to get angry.*
- *Falsehood: “You made me angry”. No, someone did something to you that you didn’t like and you chose to get angry...don’t blame anyone else for your outburst...we can all control our anger.*
- *When you know you are going into a tense situation where you will get angry, decide in advance, that you will choose not to get angry.*

2) Remember the cost

- *There is always a price to pay for uncontrollable anger.*
- Prov 29:22 TLB *A hot-tempered man starts fights and gets into all kinds of trouble.*
 - “all kinds” of trouble...it will cost you.
- Prov 15:18 God's Word *A hothead stirs up a fight (Good News “arguments”), but one who holds his temper calms disputes.*
 - “arguments” – you will get this reputation of causing arguments.

2) Remember the cost

- Prov 14:29 TLB *A wise man controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes.*
 - “causes mistakes” – who would want to have an employee like this.
- Prov 11:29 TLB *The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left.*
 - “have nothing worthwhile left” – lose one’s family.
- What do you lose?
 - Your reputation, respect of others, your job, your family, your friends, your health... it doesn’t matter what you eat... sinful anger along with bitterness and resentment will make you sick.

It's not what you eat...it's what eats you.

*It's what's eating you that's making you sick, not what
you're eating.*

Remember the cost of choosing uncontrollable anger.

Next week we will cover the next 4 tips on how to counter uncontrollable sinful anger.

We as Believers must do our part in lowering the level of anger in our society and in our circle of influence.