

Anger—Part One

1. Why talk about anger?

Are we an angry people?

Discussion

How does anger manifest itself in our world or among the people you know?

2. What is anger?

“Anger is a passionate _____ response to a _____ evil that would cross us or hinder us from something good.” Richard Baxter

“Our anger is our whole-personed _____ response of negative moral _____ against _____ evil.” Robert Jones

- a. Active response – something we _____
- b. Whole-personed – _____ our entire being
- c. Response against something – a reaction to some _____
- d. Negative moral judgment – a _____ that something is wrong
- e. Against perceived evil – arises from personal perception or _____

3. Is anger always wrong?

- a. God always expresses righteous anger

Leon Morris identifies 20 different Hebrew words that refer to God’s anger. There are several hundred references to God’s anger in the Bible.

Discussion

How is God’s anger described in the Bible?

Deut. 31:17; Josh, 23:16; Ps, 74:1; Ezek. 13:13

How does this compare to how we feel when we are angry?

b. We can express righteous anger

When is our anger good?

- It is a reaction against _____ sin
- It is _____ on God's kingdom, God's rights, God's reputation, NOT my own.
- It is expressed in _____ ways

5 Questions you should ask about your anger (adapted from David Powlison)

- 1) Did you get angry about the right thing?*
- 2) Did you express your anger in the right way?*
- 3) Did your anger dissipate quickly?*
- 4) Was your anger under control?*
- 5) Was the effect of your anger God-honoring?*

c. We can express sinful anger

The most frequent OT term for anger (*aph*) refers to human anger 47 times. At least 42 of those times (89%) refer to sinful anger.

James 1:19-20

4. Where does anger come from?

- a. Image of God – a proper sense of justice
Compare Genesis 1:26 with Psalm 89:14
- b. Sinful heart (image of Satan)
Compare Matthew 15:19 with John 8:44