

A Strange Anger

Anger and fear dominate this current North American generation. That includes me. My wife is super annoyed with my anger. Now, I'm not abusive or violent. Instead, I am a slow boiling complainer. I can't stand the current governments in North America as a whole. This woke generation is driving me over the wall that Trump built. Yet, I posted a meme yesterday that sums me up. I struggle with being a Jesus follower while wanting to slap people. It's honesty and a frustration all at the same time. I have been through some tough times. We all have. I cannot remember a time when I was so infuriated as I am these days. Old?

The Bible is chalked full of verses about anger. There is no leg to stand on or excuse when it comes to bad behavior. We should trust in the Lord. God says He will avenge. The Psalms and Proverbs are riddled with verses telling us not to be angry. Genesis 4:7 *"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."* It's a daunting verse. Anger and other forms of hatred will be our undoing. I think the worst part of that verse is "you must master it." Yes, but it's a pretty big tiger to tame.

One time a roommate had a party when I was gone. I came home and was so angry. I told him I was going to put my Christianity aside for a minute. Is it that simple? I mean, you still have to repent after. You still have to read your Bible and look for better ways to handle stuff. It's tricky. People like to say Jesus had a right to be angry in the temple because He was God. Yet, others say a little righteous anger is fine. So, which is it? God gets angry. He says He can handle anger far better than we can. Maybe that is the key.

What does God have to say. Ephesians 4:26-27 *“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.”* This verse is no different than Genesis 4:7. You could say sin or anger is crouching at your door, and you must master it. God controlled His anger throughout the Bible. He could have toasted humans and evil at any time. Honestly, God’s worst detractors complain that He is not avenging and killing people who sin. Where is God in times of rape and child abuse? Numbers 14:18 *“The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.”* At Some point you will have to face God and His judgment or anger.

As humans we have a strange anger. Jesus makes many people angry. Why? Most of them don’t even know Jesus or what He stood for. They just hate Him. I can’t stand some political leaders. I might even hate them. Have I met them or try and understand them? Instead, my anger wants what it wants. Yet, God hates sin. I don’t hate all my sin. I don’t pass judgment on every person who sins. I let this pass and that slide. Certainly, I ignore this sin and secretly don’t care about other sin. My anger hates injustices I care about. My anger does not hate what God hates.

This is interesting. Most public speakers talk about things they are knowledgeable and passionate about. Yet, if you listen, they tend to leave out the things that they sin in. A politicians will talk about Black Lives Matter while ignoring poverty in all cultures. They point out the oppositions sin and give excuses for their own. Pastors talk about porn or adultery while ignoring sex before marriage. They raise the alarm on gossip while ignoring smaller things like laziness or spiritual abuse of their congregation. We all have secret sins. They fuel a strange anger towards other things different than our own sin. It’s how humans roll.

Ok, God does not sin. They say Jesus did not sin. People also say we should be like Jesus. Be holy because the Lord is holy. We are humans and on this side of the cross we will sin. God is gracious. His anger is subdued because He loves us so much. It means He is giving us a chance to accept Him and allow Jesus to turn our lives around. To head towards heaven and away from hell. Our strange anger wants us to turn around and head back towards hell. How to be a better human 101. Walk towards the God of love and light. How to be a better hellion? Walk towards your anger and hate. It comes back to my meme. Is there a way to live in love while hating? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

Matthew 7:14 “But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”