

The Devil in The Box



“Jack” Had An Anger Problem.

- But, it really was an Honesty problem.
- Jack was so sure he was always right, people around him finally concluded that his aggressiveness and the stress of any disagreement was just not worth the price you pay.
- He thought he was smarter about life than you were, and if you disagree, that is on you.
- The Corinthians were like Jack.

Scripture is Not Short on Warnings About Anger

Proverbs 12:16 A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted.

Proverbs 14:17 A quick-tempered man does foolish things...

Proverbs 14:29 A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

Proverbs 22:24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered,

One of Corinth's Problems Was Anger.

“...Love is not easily angered...”
1 Corinthians 13:5



The Corinthians Had Many Problems And Mottos To Support Them.

- Lack of Love was seen in divisiveness, immorality, chaotic worship, pride, anger, marital relationships, selfishness, doubting the resurrection and many more.
- “Everything is permissible.”
 - Translation: *Whatever we think is right is right.*
- “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food.”
 - Translation: *If I feel like doing it, then it’s okay.*

“Easily Angered”

- A Verb: “to spur, to stir to anger, to be provoked, incensed.”
- Acts 17:16 *While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.* The meaning here is that Paul is honestly angered by the idolatry.
- A Noun: Acts 15:39 *They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,...*
- Can be used in a good sense. Hebrews 10:24 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*

"Straw Fires" and "Smoldering Embers"

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NKJV)

"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.



This Is A Serious Problem In Our World

- UN report 2007: “Globally, women between the ages of 15-44 are more likely to be maimed or die as the result of male violence than through cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, or war COMBINED!
- FBI: From 2001-2012 there were almost double the number of American women who were murdered by current or former male partners than the number of American troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq during the same time period.
- CDC: Between 2003-2015, 18,000 women were killed in domestic violence disputes.

Society Is Perpetuating Violence And The Church Must Not Be Compliant.

- Angry parents create angry children who become angry adults who become angry parents who create angry children....
- I happens in the church.

Galatians 5:14-15 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

I Know What Sinful Anger Looks
Like, Feels Like, Sounds Like,
and Hurts Like!



I also know what loving patience and kindness looks like, feels like, sounds like, and heals like.





**Finally, Scripture Tells Us What The
Solution To Being Easily Angered
Looks Like!**



Galatians 5:16-26 (NIV)

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.



The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.



“Whatever you allow will continue”

Ask yourself this morning if there's anything in your life that you are allowing to continue that needs to stop?

Is it being easily angered? Is it something else?

Can you imagine stopping it?

What would it take?

A dramatic event or an intervention?

Or better, a transformation, a renewing of the mind — a decision, a commitment, a new contract between yourself & your destiny?

Let's Pray This Prayer

Dear Father, if you were easily angered, all of us would be doomed. But, you are patient with us and do not want anyone to be lost. I ask you to transform me into a person of love, whose demeanor is characterized by peace, gentleness, and self-control. I confess that is not always my default setting. Forgive me and transform me and heal those who have been harmed by my anger.

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14