

ANGER and RAGE

Word Definitions

N.T. Greek words related to ANGER

- **orge** - Anger, wrath, indignation. Used to describe that in God which stands opposed to man's disobedience, obduracy [stubborn resistance] (esp. in resisting the gospel) and sin, and manifests itself in punishing the same. [Part of the definition, describing God's anger & the consequences thereof, is omitted here, since our focus is on MAN'S anger.]
- **orgizo** - To provoke, arouse to anger; passive: to be provoked to anger, be angry, be wrath.
- **orgilos** - Prone to anger, irascible.

The two following words focus on the provocation of anger by the actions of another:

- **parorgizo** - To rouse to wrath, to provoke, exasperate, anger.
 - **parorgismos** - Indignation, exasperation, wrath.
-

N.T. Greek words related to RAGE

- **thumos** - Passion, angry heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again.
- **thumoo** - To cause one to be incensed, to provoke to anger.
- **thumomacheo** - To be very angry, be exasperated.

Contrast ANGER with WRATH / RAGE:

[Based on contrast given in Vine's Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words]

WRATH / RAGE

- Indicates a more agitated condition of the feelings, an outburst of wrath from inward indignation. Does not necessarily include revenge.
- Often characterized by quickly blazing up and quickly subsiding. Expresses more the inward feeling.

ANGER (occasionally translated "wrath")

- Suggests a more settled or abiding condition of mind, frequently with a view to taking revenge.
- Less sudden in its rise but more lasting in its nature. Expresses the more active emotion

ANGER

OUTLINE

I. Examples of Anger

Anger that is NOT Described as Sinful

- Mark 3:5 - Jesus was angered at the Pharisees' stubborn hearts.
- Romans 13:4-5 - The government's wrath against evildoers.

Anger Mentioned in the Parables (Anger NOT Considered Wrong)

- Matthew 18:34 - Parable of the Unmerciful Servant - The master was angered over the evil way the one servant treated the other servant.
- Luke 14:21 - The anger of a master toward those who made excuses about coming to the wedding.
- Matthew 22:7 - The anger of a king against rebellious, murderous subjects.

Sinful Anger

- Luke 15:28 - Parable of the Prodigal Son - The older brother was angry that his wasteful brother's return was being celebrated.
- Romans 10:19; Revelation 11:18 - Nations angered by what God has done [past and future events].
- Revelation 12:17 - The devil's anger against those who obey God.

The wrath of God and the final judgment

This is not the primary focus in this study, but this concept occurs in the following passages:

Matthew 3:7; Luke 3:7; 21:23; John 3:36; Romans 1:18; 2:5,8; 3:5; 4:15; 5:9; 9:22; 12:19; Ephesians 2:3;. 5:6; Colossians 3:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10;.2:16; 5:9; Hebrews 3:11; 4:3; Revelation 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; 16:19; 19:15

NOTE ABOUT GOD'S ANGER - FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT.:

The Lord is also described as being "slow to anger" or "not quickly angry" (also translated as "patient" in at least one translation): Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; Nahum 1:3. Yet he DID become angry when the people persisted in being stiff-necked and rebellious.

This concept also occurs in the New Testament, but the word "patient" is used, rather than the phrase "slow to anger." See Romans 2:4, 9:22, and 2 Peter 3:9, 15.

II. Regulating / Controlling Anger [Goal: to NOT have sinful anger]

- Be slow to get angry - James 1:19.
 - Overseers must NOT be "quick tempered" (prone to get angry) - Titus 1:7.
 - Warning: Make sure you don't sin in your anger. - Ephesians 4:26. [Quote from Psalm 4:4 - "When you are angry, do not sin..."]
 - Warning: Don't let anger remain in you for a long time. - Ephesians 4:26 (don't let the sun go down).
-

III. Anger as sin (our normal tendency)

- Get rid of it - Ephesians 4:31, Colossians 3:8. [Note: Both of these verses also contain the word translated wrath/rage.]
- Do not encourage it in others (example: in one's children - a command to fathers/parents) - Ephesians 6:4 (do not exasperate / provoke to anger).
- Join others in prayer WITHOUT anger present (a command specifically to men) - 1 Timothy 2:8.
- Warning: Being filled with anger toward a brother will leave you in danger of judgment - Matthew 5:22. [Note: some manuscripts say "angry without cause." This just emphasizes that this anger is of the sinful type.]
- Warning: This type of anger ("man's anger") does not achieve (bring about) God's righteousness in your life - James 1:20.

QUESTIONS

- Do you ever get angry (sinful anger)? Why? What do you do about it?
- Do you ever get angry when you see sin in the world around you? Do you ever get angry over sin in your own life? (Remember Matthew 7:5 - First take care of your own sin!) In these instances, what do you do about your anger? (Remember that even this type of anger can become sinful, if not handled properly.)
- Look at the verses in the outline (especially Sections II & III). As applicable, think about ways they apply to you. Spend some time throughout the day thinking about what you have learned.
- Opportunities will come your way, which will enable you to put into practice what you have learned. Prepare in advance, so that you will be less inclined to follow your "old ways." Think about the power God gave you when he gave you his Spirit. Think also about your responsibility to trust him and then to put what you have learned into practice. When the time of testing comes, consider your options (and obligations) before you act!
- If you have a problem with anger, a study on what the Bible says about PATIENCE may be helpful.

WRATH / RAGE

OUTLINE

I. Examples of Wrath / Rage

By Evil People, Enraged that Others Did What was Good

- Matthew 2:16 - Herod enraged that he had been tricked by the Magi (so he could not kill Jesus).
- Luke 4:28 - People in the synagogue enraged when Jesus didn't perform miracles for them (because of their unbelief).
- Hebrews 11:27 - The king of Egypt - wrath against Moses.
- Acts 19:28 - The craftsmen of Ephesus - filled with rage because people were being saved and were turning away from idolatry (the source of their income).

Potential Example Paul Feared Might Exist (Christians displaying evil conduct)

- 2 Corinthians 12:20 - He was afraid that he might find angry tempers, etc., among the Corinthians.

Example not defined as either good or evil

- Acts 12:20 - King Herod - very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon.
-

II. What Scripture tells us about this type of conduct:

It is an act of the flesh [sinful nature], not a fruit of the Spirit

- Galatians 5:20 - The acts of the flesh... outbursts of anger. [Contrast with v. 22: The fruit of the Spirit...]

Get rid of such conduct

- Ephesians 4:31 - Get rid of all... rage.
 - Colossians 3:8 - You must rid yourselves of... rage.
-

Question: Is rage/wrath EVER legitimate?

In Acts 12:20, Herod's rage is not specifically defined as being good or bad. Could there be a situation in which rage/wrath were NOT wrong? In the study on "anger," we discovered that certain types of anger could be legitimate. But here, there is no direct statement claiming that human rage/wrath is good.

In the Old Testament, the wrath of God is mentioned many times (perhaps 150 times), as a righteous and holy expression of God's character and God's justice (against sin). In most instances, the wrath of men is condemned either directly or by implication. However, there are at least five instances in which we seem to find exceptions to this rule. Three proverbs (Proverbs 16:14; 19:12; and 20:2) refer to a king's wrath, but do not state that the wrath is wrong. There is also a verse in which the prophet Jeremiah claims to be "full of the wrath of the Lord" (Jeremiah 6:11). Finally, King Saul was condemned because he did not obey the Lord, to "carry out his [the Lord's] fierce wrath against the Amalekites" (1 Samuel 28:18). As we look at these possible "exceptions," we note that all involve the actions of a leader - either king or prophet. Two of these involve an expression or display of the Lord's wrath.

Conclusions? Perhaps there may be times in which a high authority might have a right to display rage/wrath - especially when that wrath is an expression of God's wrath against sin (perhaps ONLY then). But for the rest of us, it does not seem that rage/wrath is ever an option.

[III. All the following are prophetic in significance & are not included above:]

- The wrath of God at the day of judgment / justice - Romans 2:8; Revelation 14:10, 19; 15:1,15:7; 16:1, 19; 19:15.
 - The devil - filled with "fury" because his time is coming to an end - Revelation 12:12.
 - The adulteries of "Babylon the great" described as "maddening" wine - Revelation 14:8; 18:3.
-

QUESTIONS

Do you ever become enraged? Why? [If your answer is "yes," the following instructions are for you:]

- Focus on what the Bible says about rage. Begin to build (or reinforce) your relationship with God. Through Bible study and meditation on the Word, along with prayer and trust in the God who can use these things to change you, change can come. If the Spirit is in you, you have what is necessary to combat this sin. Remember that one of the fruits of the Spirit's presence is self-control.
- You may wish to study what the Bible says about "SELF-CONTROL." You may find such a study helpful for building-up a more Christ-like lifestyle.
- It may take time; it will take effort. You will need to increase in your trust and reliance on God. You may fail at times, but do not give-up in despair. If you have spent many years reinforcing this sinful habit, changing may be difficult. **BUT IT CAN BE DONE!**