

LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)
 60 – move out of the way

**WHEN YOU'RE
 WALKING THROUGH
 THE FOREST ...**



... AND SUDDENLY ...

**... A GRIZZLY BEAR WANTS TO STAND
 WHERE YOU ARE STANDING ...**



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

**... A GRIZZLY BEAR WANTS TO STAND
 WHERE YOU ARE STANDING ...**



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

LOOK FOR YOUR CAMERA?
 PRETEND THE BEAR DOESN'T EXIST?
 ARGUE?
 FIGHT FOR YOUR "RIGHTS"?
 REFUSE TO MOVE?

Your best choice is probably to

**GET OUT
 OF
 THE WAY!**

"GIVE him your PLACE"



This wasn't necessarily the best choice!

DISCLAIMER: Not intended as professional advice. If you are in grizzly bear country, do your own research and make your own informed decisions about the best response.

Scene 1 – Standing in your place.



I WANT TO STAND THERE!

Scene 2 – Giving your place to the bear.

I GIVE YOU THAT PLACE TO STAND!

I YIELD IT TO YOU!

I SURRENDER IT!

TAKE IT!

IT'S YOURS!

"GIVING A PLACE"

The Bible

uses this concept to describe ways WE are to respond in certain situations...

- ✓ Sometimes, we need to **GIVE PLACE** to someone/something.
- ✓ Sometimes, we are **NOT** to **GIVE PLACE** to someone/something.

1 The concept used in a **WARNING:** **1**

"You might have to GIVE up your PLACE."

(A warning against pride and self-exaltation.)

When someone invites you to a wedding, don't take the place of honor. Maybe someone more important than you was invited.

Luke 14:8 (GW)

I DESERVE TO BE AT THE FRONT TABLE!

Then your host would say to you, 'Give this person your place.' Embarrassed, you would have to take the place of least honor.

Luke 14:9 (GW)

NO, YOU DESERVE TO BE AT THE BACK TABLE!

GIVE UP YOUR PLACE!

Our ROMANS 12:9-21 passage shows us the way of love (and honesty).

Honor one another above yourselves. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 12:10b, 16b (NIV)

I DO NOT DESERVE TO BE AT THE FRONT TABLE!


2 The concept used in a PROHIBITION: **2**

"Do not GIVE the Devil a PLACE (in your heart and mind)."

(A warning against sinful anger.)

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and **do not give the devil a foothold** [= "a place"].

Ephes. 4:26-27 (NIV)



SINFUL ANGER IS LIKE AN OPEN DOOR THAT ALLOWS ME IN!

[NOT HIS ACTUAL APPEARANCE]

This verse does **NOT** tell us that anger is always sinful.



NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO ME, I REFUSE TO LIE!

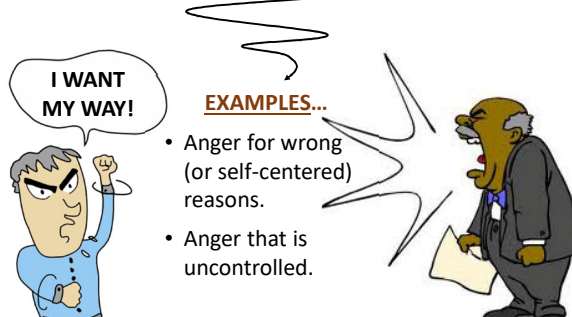
Anger **ABOUT** sin is not the same as anger **WITH** sin!

The problem is that **SINNERS TEND TO MAKE IT SINFUL.**

I WANT MY WAY!

EXAMPLES...

- Anger for wrong (or self-centered) reasons.
- Anger that is uncontrolled.



3 The concept used in a COMMAND: **3**

"You must GIVE God his PLACE (as judge)."

(A warning against taking judgment matters into our own hands.)

(Part of our Romans 12:9-21 passage)

Do not take revenge, my friends, but **leave room** [= "give a place"] for God's wrath, ...

Romans 12:19a (NIV)

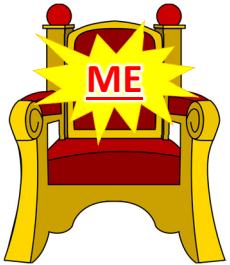
GOD

THE EVIL RESPONSE THAT THE SINFUL NATURE WANTS

ME

YOU HAVE TAKEN MY PLACE!

THE JUDGE'S THRONE



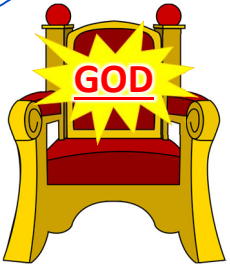
THE GODLY RESPONSE THAT THIS VERSE REQUIRES

GOD

I GIVE YOUR PLACE BACK TO YOU!

ME

THE JUDGE'S THRONE



As we saw in a previous week ...

★ THIS COMMAND IS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE, ★
BY ONE WHO CARES ABOUT US.

Do not take revenge, **my friends**, but
leave room for God's wrath, ...

Romans 12:19a (NIV)

- Also translated as "dear friends," or "beloved."
- Related to the word "LOVE" (in the New Testament Greek language) – which is the theme of this entire section of Romans 12:9-21.

But there's even more to it!

★ THE COMMAND ITSELF IS
A GOOD COMMAND! ★

Because...

"GOD IS INTERESTED IN OUR GOOD!"

Do not take revenge, **my friends**, but
leave room for God's wrath, ...

Romans 12:19a (NIV)

HERE ARE THREE OF THE WAYS!

THREE OF THE WAYS!

1) God does not want us to become guilty of sin.

When we have a vengeful spirit, and take God's
place as judge:

- ✓ We are sinning. Our very act of judging brings us under judgment.
- ✓ This makes us evil; we become like the evil person we are "getting even" with.

2) God has promised to give us genuine justice.

Our attempts at justice:

- ✓ They are imperfect and faulty, for sin's influence is not totally removed from us.
(We won't have complete victory over sin until Jesus returns.)
- ✓ We end up wronging those we are judging; and this brings us under judgment.

DON'T INTERFERE WITH GENUINE
JUSTICE, BY TAKING GOD'S PLACE!

3) God wants us to become like him.

- ✓ God turns evil into good for us – people who have wronged God (Romans 8:28).
- ✓ He wants us to turn evil into good for them – people who wrong us (Matthew 5:44-48).

Our ROMANS 12:9-21 passage
also shows us this.

- Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

Romans 12:14, 17a (NIV)

ULTIMATELY, YOU MUST DECIDE

"WHO IS YOUR FATHER?"

THIS WILL INFLUENCE
YOUR CONDUCT

OPTION #1

For you are the **children of your father**
the Devil, and you love to do the evil
things he does.

John 8:44a (NLT)

OPTION #2

But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as **true children of your Father in heaven.**

For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too.

If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.

If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:44-48 (NLT)

Your Mission...

LET THE FOLLOWING FACT INFLUENCE HOW YOU RESPOND TO INJUSTICE:



GOD WANTS US TO BE HIS CHILDREN...

✓ **TO TRUST HIM TO PROVIDE GENUINE JUSTICE...**

✓ **AND TO NOT GET IN THE WAY OF HIS JUSTICE!**

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

**"Do not take revenge, my friends,
but leave room for God's wrath, ..."**

Romans 12:19a

ANGER AND WRATH

are not *always* sinful...

But sinners tend to make them sinful.

THE ANGER/WRATH OF GOD

It exists (and is deserved) because of sin.

- It's the result of sin (and refusal to repent of sin) - Romans 1:18; 2:5, 8; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6; John 3:36.
- We (God's people) deserved wrath - Ephesians 2:3; but have been saved from it - Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9.

It will be experienced by those who sin (and don't repent).

Depending on context, verses about God's wrath may refer to either (or both) of these:

- 1) The wrath experienced at God's final judgment, or during events associated with that coming day.
 - 2) The wrath experienced by people (or nations) *before* the final judgment, such as what the Jews experienced at the destruction of Jerusalem, in A.D. 70.
- It is coming - Matthew 3:7; Luke 3:7; 21:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:16. (Since these verses refer to Jews of that time, it could include the wrath of *both* of the judgment events mentioned above.)

- Many Scripture passages describe the coming wrath at the final day of judgment, especially in the book of Revelation - Revelation 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; 16:19; 19:15.
- The wrath of God's judgment is righteous - Romans 2:5.
- We should learn from the example of the Old Testament Jews, who experienced God's wrath because of their unbelief and disobedience - Hebrews 3:11; 4:3 (and context).

THE ANGER/WRATH OF PEOPLE

Anger that is *not* sinful.

- It's slow to come - James 1:19-20; and unwilling to sin - Ephesians 4:26-27.
- Examples of anger that honors God: anger *against* sin and unbelief - Mark 3:5 (an example by Jesus); the wrath (anger) of designated authorities against sin - Romans 13:4-5 (civil government).
- Parables that include expressions of anger that appear to be *righteous* - Matthew 18:34; 22:7; Luke 14:21.

Anger that is sinful.

- It's *not* like the examples already given.
- It tends to come quickly - James 1:19-20; and tends to leave slowly - Ephesians 4:26-27.
- It is incompatible with righteousness - James 1:19-20; and encourages sinful conduct - Ephesians 4:26-27.
- It is *opposed* to God's anger against sin - Revelation 11:18.
- We are to get rid of it - Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; it is incompatible with a spirit of prayer - 1 Timothy 2:8.
- A parable that includes an expression of sinful anger - Luke 15:28.