

August 10, 2008 – SERMON SUMMARY

Anger.

We've all experienced it, but how do we control it? Is it sinful? Even God and Satan experience anger, but there is a significant difference. In God we see an anger that is unselfish, loving, protecting, wants the best, wants to bring change, and is just. In Satan we see selfishness, hatred, revenge, pain, and bitterness. Which example does our sin most resemble? So why do we get angry? James 4 says, "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want."

What is it that you desire? What you desire most will be what you protect and fight for the most. When you lose it you will be angry. It affects everything. If you want to know one of the things that is ruling your heart, see what makes you angry.

For some their greatest desire is to be respected. They also are Christians and believe that they need to love their neighbor. But what happens if their boss disrespects them in front of all of their coworkers? If serving Christ is their greatest desire then they will find a way to "love their neighbor" even in that situation. If they desire respect even more than Christ, then they will lash out in anger and look for revenge and a way to reclaim this lost respect.

To begin to solve our anger problem we must look to what motivates our anger. Once we see the desires that are more important to us than Christ, then we can confess them to Christ and submit this portion of our life to Christ's healing in our lives. This will begin our journey away from anger and towards grace.

Pastor Tim L. Melton