

# Flourishing in the Kingdom – Anger

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 3.3

## Key Greek words

- *orge* (Gk, noun)
  - anger, wrath
- *thymos* (Gk, noun)
  - anger, fury, rage, wrath

## Anger

- God's anger
  - Jn 3:36, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."
    - "wrath": *orge*
    - Does this suggest God now is expressing his anger actively against sinners, or does it suggest God's allowing sinners to experience the full consequences of their choices, or could it mean both of the above?
  - Ro 1:18, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness."
    - "wrath": *orge*
  - Ro 12:19, "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay.'"
    - "wrath": *orge*
    - Why would God release his wrath on someone who harms you?
  - Rev 14:9(c)-10,<sup>9</sup> "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,<sup>10</sup> he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath."
    - "fury": *thymos*
    - "wrath": *orge*
    - Rev 8:1, before God's wrath, silence in heaven for about half an hour
  - Who was the first being to act in self-centeredness?
  - What did his self-centeredness motivate him to do?
  - How did God respond to that?
  - How does self-centeredness motivate people to reject God's authority & take his place?
  - Why is God justified in expressing his anger toward human sinners & sentencing them to hell?

- Jesus' anger
  - Mk 3:5, Jesus “looked around at [the Pharisees] in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.”
    - “anger”: *orge*
    - “deeply distressed” (Gk, v, *syllypeo*): grieved, sorrowed
    - Do you think Jesus was angry because they wanted to kill him?
    - Mt 15:7, he calls Pharisees “hypocrites!”
    - Mt 23:33, he calls them snakes and a brood of vipers
    - Jn 8:44, “You belong to your father, the devil.”
  - Mt 21:12-13, <sup>12</sup> “Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. <sup>13</sup> ‘It is written,’ he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a “den of robbers.””
    - Why was his anger appropriate?
  - What do these statements reveal about Jesus' frame of mind?
- Our anger
  - Mt 5:22, “But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.”
    - “angry” a verb from the same word group as the noun *orge*
    - Who is the “brother” referred to in this verse?
    - Based on this verse, is it appropriate to be angry with another Christian?
  - Gal 5:19-21(a), <sup>19</sup> “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.”
    - “sinful nature” (Gk, n, *sarx*): literally, flesh; figuratively, Bible uses it to refer to that part of us that retains sinful traits
    - Where do our fits of rage originate, according to verse 19?
    - What are we supposed to be doing to those old sinful ways?
  - Eph 4:26-27, <sup>26</sup> “‘In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.”
    - words “anger” and “angry” are from same word group as *orge*
    - What’s the significance of the phrase, “do not give the devil a foothold”?
  - Col 3:8, “But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”
    - “anger”: *orge*
    - “rage”: *thymos*

- Jas 1:19-20, <sup>19</sup> “My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.”
  - “anger” and “angry” are both *orge*
  - Why is anger acceptable in some cases but rage is not?
  - 1Co 13:5, love “is not easily angered”
    - “easily angered” (Gk, v, *paroxyno*): to be provoked, incited or stirred up
- Is it true that God the Father is angry about some things, but doesn’t sin?
- Was it true that Jesus the man was angry about some things, but didn’t sin?
- Is it possible & acceptable for us to be angry about some things without sinning?
- The issue is whether our anger is an expression of sinful, self-centered attitudes or God-compatible attitudes

### Questions

- How does sinful anger affect our covenant relationship with God?
- How does God-compatible anger affect our covenant relationship with him?
- How is God-compatible anger relevant to our activity in the kingdom?
- How is God-compatible anger relevant to our life in general?

### Conclusions

- Anger is a godly character trait
- Self-centeredness corrupts that godly trait and makes it sinful