

## **James 1:19-20 ENCORE**

- 1) Have you ever been hurt by the sinful anger of someone you love?
- 2) Do you agree that anger is *not* inherently evil? Why or why not?
- 3) What is the difference between sinful and righteous anger?
- 4) Is it ok to blame your circumstances for sinful outbursts of wrath?
- 5) Is it ok to blame others for your sinful outbursts of wrath?
- 6) Is it ok to vent your frustrations on others because they “made you angry”?
- 7) Is it really possible for someone to *make* you sinfully angry? Why or why not?
- 8) What one phrase describes the act of not taking responsibility for your outbursts of anger?
- 9) All sinful anger is a heart issue; do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
- 10) If anger is rooted in your circumstances, is there any hope for overcoming it?
- 11) If sinful anger is a heart issue is there any hope that you can overcome it? Why or why not?
- 12) Read James 1:19-20 what commands does James give that will help us to avoid sinful anger?

## James 1:19-20 The wrath of man (Part 2): Who's kingdom?

**Monday (Proverbs 15:18)** *"A wrathful man stirs up strife, But he who is slow to anger allays contention."* Sinful anger causes all kinds of hurt and damage in relationships. Wrath, contention and strife go hand in hand. Listen to what the proverbs teach about sinful anger: *An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression (Proverbs 29:22), Scoffers set a city aflame (Proverbs 29:8), For as the churning of milk produces butter, And wringing the nose produces blood, So the forcing of wrath produces strife (Proverbs 30:33), As messengers of death is the king's wrath (Proverbs 16:14), A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger (Proverbs 15:1).* Sinful anger "stirs up" more sinful anger in others and in you; it is a self-defeating cycle of sin which spirals downward into all kinds of problems.

**Tuesday (Proverbs 22:24-25)** *"Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul."* If you are a person who habitually displays sinful anger you are not a good friend. You are not a good example to those around you and your angry character will be a bad influence on those who are closest to you.

**Wednesday (Proverbs 14:17)** *"A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of wicked intentions is hated."* Sinful anger is contrary to the wisdom of God, it is plainly foolishness. Listen to what the proverbs say about sinful anger: *He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly (Proverbs 14:29), It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel (Proverbs 20:3), The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger (Proverbs 19:11), A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again (Proverbs 19:19), Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls (Proverbs 25:28).* Sinful anger is a rejection of God's wisdom in preference to doing things my own way. God says that if you are given over to sinful anger you are a fool and you are like a city with broken down walls.

**Thursday (Galatians 5:15)** *"But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!"* I think this is the same thing that was going on in the book of James. People were suffering and life was difficult. They were having understanding their plight and dealing with their problems. They were by default turning in on each other. Sadly; outbursts of sinful anger are often directed towards those we profess to love and on to those whom we are closest to. Paul would tell us that this is the opposite of real love & fellowship.

**Friday (Jonah 4:9)** *Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"* "Anger is not always or necessarily sinful, but it has such a tendency to run wild that whenever it displays itself, we should be quick to question its character, with this enquiry, "Doest thou well to be angry? It may be that we can answer, 'Yes.' Very frequently anger is the madman's firebrand, but sometimes it is Elijah's fire from heaven. We do well when we are angry with sin, because the wrong which it commits against our good and gracious God; or with ourselves because we remain so foolish after so much divine instruction; or with others when the sold cause of anger is the evil which they do. He who is not angry at transgression becomes a partaker in it. Sin is a loathsome and hateful thing, and no renewed heart can patiently endure it. God Himself is angry with the wicked every day, and it is written in His Word, "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil." Far more frequently it is to be feared that our anger is not commendable or even justifiable, and then we must answer, 'NO.' Why should we be fretful with children, passionate with servants and wrathful with companions? Is such anger honorable to our Christian profession, or glorifying to God? Is it no the old evil heart seeking to gain dominion, and should we not resist it with all the might of our newborn nature? Many professors give way to temper as though it were useless to attempt resistance; but let the believer remember that he must be a conqueror in every point or else he cannot be crowned. If we cannot control our temper what has grace done for us? Some one told Mr. Jay that grace was grafted on a crabstump. 'Yes' said he, 'but the fruit will not be the crabs.' We must not make natural infirmity an excuse for sin, but we must fly to the cross and pray the Lord to crucify our tempters, and renew us in gentleness and meekness after His own image." Taken from Spurgeon's Morning by Morning.

**Saturday (Ephesians 4:26)** "You might be surprised to hear that there is such a thing as righteous anger - that is, being angry over what grieves God and hinders His causes. But we are not to be so angry that it results in sin. Don't get angry when people offend you. And don't let your anger degenerate into personal resentment, bitterness, sullenness, or moodiness. That is forbidden. The only justifiable anger defends the great, glorious, and holy nature of our God. Anger that is selfish, passionate, undisciplined, and uncontrolled is sinful, useless, and hurtful. It must be banished from the Christian life. But disciplined anger that seeks the righteousness of God is pure, selfless, and dynamic. We ought to be angry about the sin the world and in the church. But we can't let that anger degenerate into sin." Taken from John MacArthur's "Truth for Today"