

Directional Devo
Letter to the Ephesians
Ephesians 4:26-29
4/12/16

vv.26-27 "BE ANGRY, AND DO NOT SIN": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

Second he addresses anger by quoting Psalm 4:4.

Some will conclude that he is warning against all anger, but the imperative is **be angry!**

You see, anger can be both good and bad depending upon the motive and purpose.

Paul may very well have been asking for what we also call righteous indignation which is anger at evil.

This type of anger hates injustice, immorality, and all other sorts of godlessness.

There is a time for such anger.

Matthew 21:12 *Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.*

Mark 3:5 *And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.*

However, the verse concludes with a warning to **not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.**

Unrequited anger can lead to bitterness; that includes both righteous and unrighteous.

The prescription to avoid this is found in Romans 12:17-21.

Another thought is that any differences we have with others should be settled quickly so Satan has no opportunity to take advantage of us.

Proverbs 22:24-25 warns us that we are to *make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, 25 Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.*

v.28 *Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.*

Stealing is son, period.

God desires that each of us work to care for ourselves and those whom we love.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-11 *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.*

1 Timothy 5:8 *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

The only personal responsible to care for my family and yours is us.

That being said, we still have a responsibility *to give to him who has need.*

This is not meant to be mistaken as a means of enablement.

Luke 14:14 *And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."*

v.29 *Let no **corrupt** word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

The Greek word for **corrupt** refers to that which is rotten or foul.

Foul language should not come from the lips of a child of God, period.

Colossians 3:8 *But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.*

Instead, the Christian's speech should be for what is **good for necessary edification** and **impart grace to the hearers.**

Luke 4:22 *So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"*

We can tear down or build up people with our word.

How much better to build up and minister grace to those around us?

Colossians 4:6 *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*