

Why is God's anger part of His goodness?

What is anger?

Why is God's anger part of His goodness?

Because there is so much that is wrong with the world.

Because He sees everything clearly.

Because He fights for faithfulness in covenant relationships.

“God's anger in Scripture is the anger of a betrayed spouse, or a betrayed husband ... [it is] an anger that cuts as deep as betrayal itself.” (Winston Smith)

Proverbs 27:4 *Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, but who can stand before jealousy?*

Zechariah 8:1-8

Because He is slow to anger.

Psalm 86:15 *But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.*

1 Corinthians 13:4 *Love is patient.*

“The constructive displeasure of mercy.” (David Powlison)
“merciful, constructive displeasure.”

“This complex thing [merciful, constructive displeasure] rolls up its sleeves. It tackles the toughest problems you will ever have to face in life.” (Powlison)

“That matters, it’s wrong and offensive, I want to do something about it.... I will be constructively merciful.” (Powlison)

This is *patience* (1 Cor. 13:4)

“Patience hates what’s happening [the wrong], and rolls up its sleeves to redress what is wrong.” (Powlison)
“You don’t react right away. You don’t have a short fuse.... You put up with difficult people and events, not out of indifference, resignation, or cowardice. You are driven by a different purpose.... You are willing to work slowly to solve things ... to see the wrongs changed into rights.” (Powlison)

Because He addresses wrongs with sacrificial love.

This involves *forgiveness*.

This involves *charity*.

“Charity agrees, ‘That’s wrong,’ but then does some undeserved generous acts of kindness.... Charity does what someone doesn’t deserve.” (Powlison)

Romans 12:21

He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:45)

Because the final result will be shalom.

Conclusion: Nehemiah 9:16-31