

How Anger Goes Wrong

Scripture Reading: James 4:1-12

Introduction: James 4:1-2b

Why does our anger go wrong?

1. Because we don't test it: we let it go.

Ephesians 4:26a

Ephesians 4:26b

Proverbs 16:32 *He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.*

Proverbs 25:28 *Like a city that is broken into and without walls
Is a man who has no control over his spirit.*

Ephesians 4:27

James 4:7b

2. Because we don't see everything clearly and make righteous judgments.

“Anger is absolutely certain in its judgment. It never wavers in its
self-confidence.” (Ed Welch)

James 4:6 *God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the
humble.*

3. **Because we excuse our sinful anger.**

Galatians 5:13-15

4. **Because we get angry about the wrong things.**

a. **Our desires might be distorted.**

James 3:14 *selfish ambition*

James 4:3 *so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

b. **Our desires might be wrong.**

James 4:4

c. **Our desires might be in control.**

“The more you value something, the more force you’ll pour into your displeasure [when you don’t get it].” “[Anger] loudly demonstrates that ‘My will be done!’ defines [my] life.” “Your anger will reveal your master.” (David Powlison)

James 4:7

5. **Because we are not controlled by love.**

James 3:17

1 John 3:11-12, 16

6. **Because it attempts to right wrongs with destruction.**

This is the way of the devil: John 8:44; Rev. 9:11

Galatians 5:15

James 3:9-10

James 4:11-12

7. **Because we like it when it goes wrong.**

*Do not be eager in your heart to be angry,
For anger resides in the bosom of fools. (Ecc. 7:9)*

Proverbs 14:29-30

James 1:20 *the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.*

Conclusion: anger vs. faith