

## **THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE**     John Kirkpatrick

What do you think the other side of love is?

Is it hatred? Criticism? Anger?

Even though we are saints, we are vulnerable to anger.  
Anger can range from mild annoyance to intense rage. When in the grip of intense rage the blood pressure rises, words or actions can be extremely hurtful.

What does James 1.19-20 counsel us regarding anger?  
What does produce the righteousness that God desires?

Is there anyone who has never been angry?  
How has your anger affected you? Or others?  
How has the anger of others affected you?

30 million people have googled how to manage anger.  
Angry husbands : 10 million  
Angry wives : 20 million  
Angry church members : 27,800,000

What is it that makes people angry? Is it always the other person's fault?  
What do you think is the most common cause of anger?

Remember Moses on the mountain, talking with God, and then coming back to the Israelites. Read Exodus 32,7-10. Who is angry here?

Moses interceded for the people, and went down the mountain. He and Joshua heard the noise of the people below. 32.17-18. Then as they reached the camp, 32.19-20.  
The people were running wild, and the Levites joined with Moses to kill those who had sinned, and three thousand died that day.

There are two kinds of anger: explosive and implosive.

Explosive anger can cause incredible damage. Have you ever experienced explosive anger directed at you? How did you feel? Angry in return? Afraid?

Implosive anger is just as deadly in a different way.  
Consider Jacob, who deceived his brother Esau and took his blessing.  
Genesis 27.33-36. Esau was furious with Jacob and deeply distressed at losing the blessing. 27.41.

Rebekah heard what Esau intended to do, and sent Jacob away, 37.42-45  
Until Esau's fury abated. Did Rebekah ever see Jacob again? Probably not. When Jacob did come back many years later, he tried to calm Esau's anger with gifts of herds and flocks, and maybe it worked, though Jacob didn't trust him and went to live in Succoth while Esau returned to Seir.

Where does anger come from? Is it because of sin? Does God ever get angry? If he does, why? There are many verses which tell us that God's anger burns, and many others that say he is slow to anger and abounding in love.

Is his anger righteous? Valid? In Exodus 4.14 God is angry at Moses. He had just told him of the future he planned for him, to lead his people out of Egypt, and through him to do mighty signs, but Moses didn't want to do it. 4.10-13. What was it that God was angry about?

Was it Moses' lack of trust? His refusal to obey? His failure to receive the future God had revealed to him? God obviously knew that in the end Moses would obey him.

Sometimes there is a righteous basis for our anger, but it can still lead to trouble

What about Jesus' anger at the Scribes and Pharisees. Matthew 23.13-28 Why was he angry? Was he right to be angry? It led to trouble for him. Mark 3.5, why was he angry with the leaders of the synagogue?

Proverbs 29.11

Ephesians 4.26-27. Is it always a sin to be angry? How can anger give a foothold to the Devil?

Satan can undo what God has been doing in our life, if we let anger take control.

What is the difference between annoyance and anger?

We have to make an effort to restrain anger to avoid it escalating.

Genesis 4 – Cain and Abel both brought offerings to God. It is usually thought that they were told to bring an animal sacrifice, but we aren't told that in the story. But there seems to have been something wrong in Cain's attitude, or else he would have tried to find the reason for God's acceptance of Abel's offering. Instead, read Genesis 4.3-7. Cain's wrong attitude escalated into fierce anger. He gave the Devil a foothold. God told him that sin was crouching at the door, and Cain let it in.

Was he right to be angry? Even if he hadn't realized what God wanted?

Colossians 3.5-8. How do we do this? It's easier said than done, but it is very important.

### **Conclusion:**

We all have – a propensity towards anger

- a potential for anger – that this will damage – me, family, church
- a promise – Philippians 4.13.

We need to pray, to ask God for his power to overcome this anger and work his purposes through us.

