

Anger (see also [self-control](#))

Anger is not in itself sinful.

- Psalms 7:11 HCSB God is a righteous judge, and a God who executes justice every day.
- 1 Samuel 11:6 HCSB When Saul heard these words, the Spirit of God suddenly took control of him, and his anger burned furiously.
- 1 Kings 11:9 HCSB The LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.
- 2 Kings 17:18 HCSB Therefore, the LORD was very angry with Israel, and He removed them from His presence. Only the tribe of Judah remained.
- Ephesians 4:26 HCSB Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger,

Notes: Anger, in and of itself, is not sinful. We learn this from Paul's careful distinction between *being angry* and *sinning*. Some well-meaning Christian counselors have failed to help others overcome anger in God's way because they do not understand this fact. The Bible teaches that "God executes justice every day" (Psalm 7:11) and yet He is often angry. Much is revealed about the anger and wrath of God in the Scriptures. In 1 Samuel 11:6, we discover that the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Saul resulted in great anger that impelled him to carry out his work for God.

Anger at sin is not only appropriate but necessary.

- John 2:15-17 HCSB After making a whip out of cords, He drove everyone out of the temple complex with their sheep and oxen. He also poured out the money changers' coins and overturned the tables. 16 He told those who were selling doves, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning My Father's house into a marketplace!" 17 And His disciples remembered that it is written: Zeal for Your house will consume Me.
- Mark 3:5 HCSB After looking around at them with anger and sorrow at the hardness of their hearts, He told the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Notes: Above all else, the Word of God reveals that the Lord Jesus was angry. Not only did this anger which "burnt him up" motivate him to drive out the money changers from the house of God, but Mark informs us specifically that on another occasion Jesus turned on the Pharisees "in anger" (Mark 3:5).

- James 1:19-20 HCSB My dearly loved brothers, understand this: everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger, 20 for man's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness.

Notes: James is not thinking of all anger, but rather of that *hasty* venting of one's temper of which Proverbs speaks. To call anger "damaging" or to apply James 1:20 without qualification constitutes a reckless and irresponsible use of the Scriptures that unwittingly amounts to charging Jesus with sinful action when he turned on the Pharisees. However, anger (in contrast to rage) is a very necessary and useful emotional motivator toward righteous action. Anger is appropriate as a communication of feeling in reaction to another's sinful or dangerous behavior.

- Numbers 25:11 HCSB "Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the Israelites because he was zealous among them with My zeal, so that I did not destroy the Israelites in My zeal.

Notes: The strange notion that it is wrong to act in anger has been spread abroad in Christian circles, especially with reference to the punishment of children. Yet all of the Scriptures indicate that God, Christ and others act (righteously) in (out of) anger (cf. Isaiah

63:3-6). The notion is false and comes from the confusion of sinful (hasty or resentful) anger with sinless anger. It is not wrong to act in anger, since the purpose of the emotion of anger is to motivate. Anger is a strong force that God built into man for the purpose of moving him to biblical action. We may go so far as to say that there are no damaging or destructive emotions *per se*. Our emotional makeup is totally from God. All emotions are, *per se*, motivating forces. The only question is whether the emotion has been properly used for God's honor. All emotions of which He made us capable are constructive when used properly (i.e. in accordance with biblical principles). Surely the anger of the Lord Jesus did not damage His body. All emotions, however, can *become* destructive when we fail to express them in harmony with biblical limitations and structures.

Why do we usually get angry? We get angry when our pride is hurt.

- Numbers 22:29 HCSB Balaam answered the donkey, "You made me look like a fool. If I had a sword in my hand, I'd kill you now!"

We get angry when someone else gets more praise or attention than we do.

- Genesis 4:4-5 HCSB And Abel also presented an offering--some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he was downcast.

We get angry when we don't get our way.

- 2 Chronicles 26:18-19 HCSB They took their stand against King Uzziah and said, "Uzziah, you have no right to offer incense to the LORD--only the consecrated priests, the descendants of Aaron, have the right to offer incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully! You will not receive honor from the LORD God." 19 Uzziah, with a censer in his hand to offer incense, was enraged. But when he became enraged with the priests, in the presence of the priests in the LORD's temple beside the altar of incense, a skin disease broke out on his forehead.
- Esther 3:2-5 HCSB The entire royal staff at the King's Gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, because the king had commanded this to be done for him. But Mordecai would not bow down or pay homage. 3 The members of the royal staff at the King's Gate asked Mordecai, "Why are you disobeying the king's command?" 4 When they had warned him day after day and he still would not listen to them, they told Haman to see if Mordecai's actions would be tolerated, since he had told them he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing down or paying him homage, he was filled with rage.

We get angry when we become jealous of what others have or what they have done.

- 1 Samuel 18:8 HCSB Saul was furious and resented this song. "They credited tens of thousands to David," he complained, "but they only credited me with thousands. What more can he have but the kingdom?"

We get angry when we are confronted about our sinful actions and are exposed.

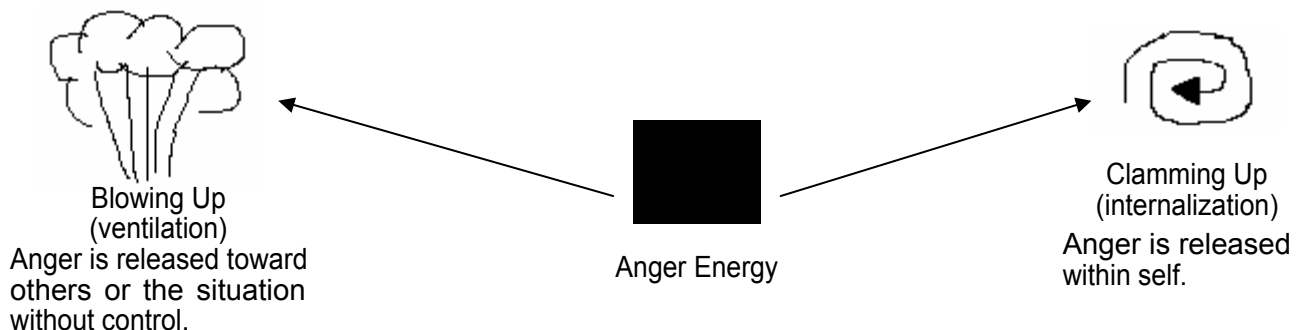
- 1 Kings 22:18-27 HCSB So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster?" 19 Then Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and the whole heavenly host was standing by Him at His right hand and at His left hand. 20 And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab to march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' So one was saying this and another was saying that. 21 "Then a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will entice him.' 22 "The LORD asked him, 'How?'

"He said, 'I will go and become a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' "Then He said, 'You will certainly entice him and prevail. Go and do that.' 23 "You see, the LORD has put a lying spirit into the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you." 24 Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up, hit Micaiah in the face, and demanded, "Did the Spirit of the LORD leave me to speak to you?" 25 Micaiah replied, "You will soon see when you go to hide yourself in an inner chamber on that day." 26 Then the king of Israel ordered, "Take Micaiah and return him to Amon, the governor of the city, and to Joash, the king's son, 27 and say, 'This is what the king says: Put this guy in prison and feed him only bread and water until I come back safely.'"

However, the Bible is very clear on the subject. Anger, when it is without just cause or when it is out of control, is wrong.

- Psalms 37:8 HCSB Refrain from anger and give up your rage; do not be agitated--it can only bring harm.
- Proverbs 19:11 HCSB A person's insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense.
- Matthew 5:21-22 HCSB "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. 22 But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Fool!' will be subject to the Sanhedrin. But whoever says, 'You moron!' will be subject to hellfire.
- Galatians 5:19-20 HCSB Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions,
- Ephesians 4:31 HCSB All bitterness, anger and wrath, insult and slander must be removed from you, along with all wickedness.
- 1 Timothy 2:8 HCSB Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument.
- Titus 1:7 HCSB For an overseer, as God's manager, must be blameless, not arrogant, not quick tempered, not addicted to wine, not a bully, not greedy for money,

Notes: While Paul distinguishes between sinful and holy anger, he warns: "Be angry *and sin not*." Righteous anger can become unrighteous anger in two ways: (1) by the *ventilation* of anger; (2) by the *internalization* of anger. These two opposite extremes are known more popularly as blowing up and clamming up. When one blows up, his emotional energies are aimed and fired at someone else. When he clams up, bodily tensions are released within oneself. In both cases, the emotional energies of anger are wasted. In both, they are used "destructively." In neither instance are they used constructively to solve the problems. Consider the following chart. "P" represents the problem or issue over which the counselee has become angry. N.B., the emotional energy fails to solve the problem in both instances, since it is not released in the direction of the problem but rather (a) toward others or (b) toward oneself. Both of these responses are wrong.



Two Sinful Extremes

Blowing up is aimed at and principally hurts others, but it also hurts the ventilator; in firing one's gun at another, not infrequently there is a powerful recoil. Ventilation may result in the loss of friendships, often destroys the significant relationships that can be built only upon the foundation of Christian communication, and may injure one's own body. While clamming up directs emotional energies destructively against one's own self, injuring his own body and making him irritable, sullen, tense, and miserable, it also hurts one's relationship to others. People who calm up are not good company. Since they "have it in for" others, they allow problems thus to come between themselves and others; that is to say – they are in an unreconciled condition.

Ventilation

There is much encouragement of the free verbal and physical expression of one's emotions, particularly of hostility, not only in the traditional psychiatric circle where such notions were born and raised, but also among their stepchildren, the group therapy, sensitivity, and encounter groups. Often the major thrust of these groups is to free persons from their "hang-ups" by providing opportunity for them to express their feelings and by encouraging them to do so. Pillows from sofas are used as props, to be beaten, struck, pounded, thrashed and abused by people who imagine them to "be" whoever made them mad. However, most of these angry gestures amount to ritual murders! Many people have to be reminded: "Remember, it's only a pillow!"

Plainly, such expression of anger amounts to a violation of the sixth commandment and, in specified cases, of the fifth as well. The Scriptures are explicit about such ventilation: it is sin. Compare the following passages from Proverbs:

- Proverbs 14:17 HCSB A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man who schemes is hated.
- Proverbs 14:29 HCSB A patient person shows great understanding, but a quick-tempered one promotes foolishness.
- Proverbs 15:18 HCSB A hot-tempered man stirs up conflict, but a man slow to anger calms strife.
- Proverbs 19:11 HCSB A person's insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense.
- Proverbs 19:19 HCSB A person with great anger bears the penalty; if you rescue him, you'll have to do it again.
- Proverbs 22:24-25 HCSB Don't make friends with an angry man, and don't be a companion of a hot-tempered man, 25 or you will learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.
- Proverbs 25:28 HCSB A man who does not control his temper is like a city whose wall is broken down.
- Proverbs 29:11 HCSB A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man holds it in check.
- Proverbs 29:20 HCSB Do you see a man who speaks too soon? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- Proverbs 29:22 HCSB An angry man stirs up conflict, and a hot-tempered man increases rebellion.
- Ephesians 4:26-27 HCSB Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and don't give the Devil an opportunity.

Internalization

Anger becomes sinful not only when it is ventilated by doing a Mt. Vesuvius, complete with ash and lava, but also when one does a slow burn. Clamming up, internalizing anger, holding it in for another leads to bitterness and resentment. There are many refinements or subheadings of the two basic categories. For instance, boredom is a form of internalized anger. Boredom is not passive, but an active rebellion against a situation in which one finds himself that he does not like but thinks he cannot change.

What are the consequences of anger? Hot words stir up strife.

- Proverbs 15:1 HCSB A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath.

A hot-tempered man creates dissension.

- Proverbs 15:18 HCSB A hot-tempered man stirs up conflict, but a man slow to anger calms strife.
- Proverbs 30:33 HCSB For the churning of milk produces butter, and twisting a nose draws blood, and stirring up anger produces strife.

Anger usually leads to other sins.

- Proverbs 29:22 HCSB An angry man stirs up conflict, and a hot-tempered man increases rebellion.

Cain's anger turned into hate and murder.

- Genesis 4:3-8 HCSB In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD. 4 And Abel also presented an offering--some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he was downcast. 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why are you downcast? 7 If you do right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it." 8 Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

5. In your anger, you reveal things about yourself, weaknesses you don't want anyone to know.

- Proverbs 25:28 HCSB A man who does not control his temper is like a city whose wall is broken down.
- Ephesians 4:26-27 HCSB Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and don't give the Devil an opportunity.

Note: Letting the sun go down on anger is the most frequent cause of sexual disharmony in marriage. It is hard to bring all of the baggage of resentment into the bed at night and expect to have freedom of joyous sexual expression under those circumstances.

So what do we do with our anger? Anger is like a wild skunk in the house. We shouldn't feed it to encourage it to stay. And we should try to get rid of it as soon as possible.

- Ephesians 4:26-27 HCSB Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and don't give the Devil an opportunity.
- Matthew 5:23-24 HCSB So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in

front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Note: Few things are sapping the strength of the church more than the unreconciled state of so many believers. So many Christians have matters deeply imbedded in their relationship, like iron wedges forced between themselves and other Christians. They can't walk together because they do not agree. When they should be marching side by side they are instead acting like an army that has been routed and scattered and whose troops in their confusion have begun fighting among themselves.

Jesus says that if a believer who is offering his gift at the altar remembers that he has done something to another person, he must drop the gift and go "first" (reconciliation takes precedence over worship) to be reconciled to his brother. Then he may come back and finish his offering. That example shows how important it is to get matters settled immediately. He must do so right away; he may not put it off.

Do not associate with a hot-tempered man.

- Proverbs 22:24-25 HCSB Don't make friends with an angry man, and don't be a companion of a hot-tempered man, 25 or you will learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

Avoid acting on impulse in the heat of anger. You are bound to do something you will regret.

- James 3:5 HCSB So too, though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts great things. Consider how large a forest a small fire ignites.
- 1 Samuel 19:9-10 HCSB Now an evil spirit from the LORD came on Saul as he was sitting in his palace holding a spear. David was playing the harp, 10 and Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear. As the spear struck the wall, David eluded Saul and escaped. That night he ran away.
- Job 5:2 HCSB For anger kills a fool, and jealousy slays the gullible.

Be slow to become angry.

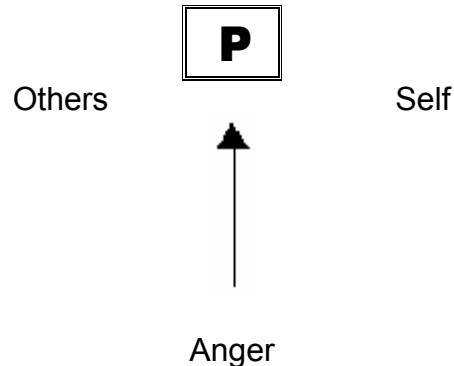
- Proverbs 14:17 HCSB A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man who schemes is hated.
- Proverbs 14:29 HCSB A patient person shows great understanding, but a quick-tempered one promotes foolishness.
- James 1:19-20 HCSB My dearly loved brothers, understand this: everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger, 20 for man's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness.

Note: Those who "blow up" are "hasty," they lose their temper, and they act and/or speak violently. Proverbs is plain: they must learn to "control" or "restrain" their anger; they must become "slow to anger"; they must learn to "hold it back" and "quiet it." Counting ten (or fifty, for that matter) is quite compatible with the exhortations of Proverbs. We are able to control the expression of anger under circumstances where it is advantageous to do so. At work with the boss, or with others whom we do not wish to lose face, we have learned how to hold our tempers. This is important to note because it shows that whenever we deem it important enough to do so, we can learn to control our tempers. We should repent over the fact that we have considered our own feelings as more important than our spouse, our children, or whoever it may be that is the brunt of the temper attack.

If you cannot avoid answering, answer softly.

- Proverbs 15:1 HCSB A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath.

Note: Look at the following chart. Again “P” represents the problem or issue which occasioned the anger. This diagram differs radically from the first. Here the tensions of anger are released primarily *toward the problem* rather than toward others or toward oneself. That is to say that the energies of the emotion of anger are used constructively in solving the problem – attacking it rather than people.



Turning anger toward the problem, however, almost always involves confronting another in anger. Yet, the *way* in which they are confronted makes the difference. They must be *confronted* to the extent that they are involved *responsibly* in the solution to the problem. They are confronted not in order to embarrass or hurt them, but to help them to move in the proper directions. The purpose for the confrontation is to help them and to solve the problem.

- Ephesians 4:29 HCSB No rotten talk should come from your mouth, but only what is good for the building up of someone in need, in order to give grace to those who hear.

Control yourself. Until you learn self-control you are defenseless.

- Proverbs 25:28 HCSB A man who does not control his temper is like a city whose wall is broken down.

Note: Of course, one may sin in the way that he expresses his anger toward others. When he sins, he fails to urn as Christ did toward the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus did not blow up; He did not vent His feelings in nasty words or actions. Instead, his anger motivated him to confront them about their sinful ways and thus meet the problem at hand.

One controls his anger best when he is *solution-oriented* rather than *problem-oriented*. Christians who are problem-oriented tend to talk about the problem, feel sorry for themselves, start up blameshifting operations, and focus their energies upon who is at fault. Solution-oriented Christians size up the problem, try to fix responsibilities, and then *turn as quickly as possible* toward solving the problem biblically. In the process, often they find it necessary to rebuke, but when they do so, they are able to rebuke *in love*. The rebuke, though anger-motivated, will be done *for a loving purpose* and *in a loving manner*. The energies of the emotion will be focused upon the solution to the problem, not upon the problem maker.

The energies of anger are wasted and used damagingly when they are solely toward oneself or another. Under control, anger is to be released within oneself and toward others only in ways that motivate one to confront others in a biblical manner in order to solve problems. Anger is a powerful emotion. But its power to motivate must be *used* not *abused*. This motivating power is used properly when it drives one to begin to rectify any wrong situation between Christian brothers as quickly as possible. It is used biblically when it impels one to become reconciled to his brother immediately.

Controlling your tongue can lead to long life.

- Proverbs 13:3 HCSB The one who guards his mouth protects his life; the one who opens his lips invites his own ruin.
- James 1:26 HCSB If anyone thinks he is religious, without controlling his tongue but deceiving his heart, his religion is useless.

Self-control is one of the fruit of the Spirit.

- Galatians 5:22-23 HCSB But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

There is great value in controlling your temper

- Proverbs 16:32 HCSB Patience is better than power, and controlling one's temper, than capturing a city.

Note: As with concern, so also with anger, the solution to sinful abuse lies not in attempting to turn off the emotion. When concern becomes fear or worry, however, it must be redirected. Anger is not sinful, but when it is directed toward others in order to hurt them and/or in uncontrolled outbursts, it becomes sinful. When it is turned into oneself in resentment and bitterness, it becomes sinful. In either case, we must direct all of our energies toward the solution of the issue that has arisen in order to destroy and remove any and all impediments that stand between ourselves and another.

It will require you to make every effort.

- 2 Peter 1:5-9 HCSB For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, 7 godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted, and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins.

Handle anger in a godly way. Do not let the sun go down on your anger.

- Ephesians 4:26-27 HCSB Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and don't give the Devil an opportunity.

Note: Here Paul quotes from Psalm 4, a night time psalm. The solution to the sinful internalization of anger lies in redirecting one's wrath from within toward the problem that has arisen. We must not speak to the problem in unwholesome words that tear others apart, but instead must direct our speech to the problem that has arisen (v.29), and pour out our energies and words in an effort to strengthen and build up others who need aid. We must keep current in our dealings with others. Rather than allowing matters to fester and abscess, we must settle daily all emotional issues between ourselves and others. We may neither hold nor nurse grudges against others.

It is not enough to put off the sin of temper by resisting and quieting one's anger; we must learn to release the anger constructively to solve the problem(s) that gave occasion for it. This is God's new way; in this we "put on" a biblical way of life.

- a. A family conference table may be used as an aid.
- b. A code of conduct to which a parent has committed himself (herself) may help.
- c. Other situations may call for telling another party, according to prearranged agreements, that one is beginning to get angry. This warning, given early enough, may lead to a cessation of the present type of conversation or activity upon which the anger is centered.

What does the second party do to help the angry person?

- Proverbs 15:1 HCSB A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath.

Note: Notice God's solution carefully. He does not say silence (clamping up – nothing tends to infuriate one and inflames the issue more readily), but an "answer." The second half of the verse also excludes answering in kind (cf. Proverbs 26:4-5 – the fool must be answered but not in a foolish manner).

- Proverbs 26:4-5 HCSB Don't answer a fool according to his foolishness, or you'll be like him yourself. 5 Answer a fool according to his foolishness, or he'll become wise in his own eyes.
- Proverbs 17:14 HCSB To start a conflict is to release a flood; stop the dispute before it breaks out.

Note: The answer must be *different* in kind: a *soft* (conciliatory, non-inflammatory answer). Proverbs 17:4 gives helpful directions too. It tells how to prevent quarrels: "The beginning of strife is like letting out water." A very small trickle, if allowed to continue to run through the hole in the dike, soon will open a large hole and the whole ocean will be in on the land. "The beginning of strife is like letting out water; so quit before the quarrel breaks out." If you don't want a quarrel to grow to larger proportions, don't let it get started in the beginning. Take immediate action to see that it does not go beyond the first nasty word. An experiment reported in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* (vol. 73, no. 5, 1968, p. 454) illustrated the biblical principle. The experimenter concluded: "Intense verbal aggression led to more retaliatory verbal aggression than did mild distraction."

- Proverbs 15:28 HCSB The mind of the righteous person thinks before answering, but the mouth of the wicked blurts out evil things.

Note: In Proverbs 15:28 is an important corollary: "The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things." Proverbs suggests, count ten before answering, take time to think, give an answer that is not just a pouring out of immediate angry thoughts but think through a response.

The Ransomed need to not only not sin in their anger. They need to replace sinful anger with godly thoughts. Fits of rage belong to your sinful nature, the way of sin.

- Galatians 5:19-21 HCSB Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance--as I told you before--that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Good news! Through the Spirit you can overcome the sin of a hot temper.

- Galatians 5:22-25 HCSB But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit.

Love covers a multitude of sins and overlooks many offenses.

- Proverbs 10:12 HCSB Hatred stirs up conflicts, but love covers all offenses.
- Proverbs 12:16 HCSB A fool's displeasure is known at once, but whoever ignores an insult is sensible.
- Proverbs 17:9 HCSB Whoever conceals an offense promotes love, but whoever gossips about it separates friends.

- Proverbs 19:11 HCSB A person's insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense.
- 1 Peter 4:8 HCSB Above all, keep your love for one another at full strength, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Seek the way of love.

- Matthew 18:15-17 HCSB "If your brother sins against you, go and rebuke him in private. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he won't listen, take one or two more with you, so that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established. 17 If he pays no attention to them, tell the church. But if he doesn't pay attention even to the church, let him be like an unbeliever and a tax collector to you.
- Romans 12:9 HCSB Love must be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good.
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 HCSB Love is patient; love is kind. Love does not envy; is not boastful; is not conceited; 5 does not act improperly; is not selfish; is not provoked; does not keep a record of wrongs; 6 finds no joy in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.