

## Taming the Beast: Proverbs on Overcoming Anger. Pt 2

DEAL WISELY WITH ANGRY PEOPLE. PROVERBS:

### 1. Avoid getting involved with angry people.

Proverbs 22:24-25

*Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself*

**WHY STAY AWAY FROM AN ANGRY PERSON?**

Proverbs 26:17

*Like one who grabs a stray dog by the ears is someone who rushes into a quarrel not their own.*

Proverbs 19:19

*A man of great anger will bear the penalty, For if you rescue him, you will only have to do it again.*

Proverbs 29:8

*Scorners set a city aflame, But wise men turn away anger.*

Proverb 29:22

*An angry person stirs up strife, and a hot-tempered person abounds in wrongdoing.*

Proverbs 19:19

*A man of great anger will bear the penalty, For if you rescue him, you will only have to do it again.*

### 2. Respond to angry people with a wise heart.

Proverbs 26:4-5

*Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will also be like him. Answer a fool as his folly deserves, that he not be wise in his own eyes."*

**WHEN NOT TO RESPOND TO A FOOL:**

- i. Don't revert to their folly. Their ungodly manner or foolish content.: Their boastings, revilings, slander, using 3<sup>rd</sup> person quotes.
  - Curses v. 2
  - Wounds others like an archer. V. 10
  - Wise in his own eyes. V. 12
  - Throws firebrands and then claims "was I not joking?" v. 18
  - Don't give him honor – it is inappropriate
  - Rages or laughs (sarcasm) 29:9

**Illustration: Jesus on the cross. 1 Peter 2:21-22**

**Why not answer a fool?**

- **You will never get a reasonable dialogue.**

**Proverbs 29:9** When a wise person has a controversy with a foolish person, the foolish person either rages or laughs and there is no rest.

**Proverbs 27:22**

Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

**Proverbs 23:9**

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

- **You will only get hatred and more anger.**

**Proverbs 9:7-8 – You will only get increased disrespect and hate.**

Don't reprove a scoffer or wicked man you will get dishonor and insults and hate. Reprove a wise man and he will love you and be wiser

**Proverbs 14:7 – You will never gain any insight**

Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge

**WHEN YOU SHOULD ANSWER A FOOL.**

**“Ignore foolish comments, Respond to erroneous ideas” – Talmud**

If thou have reason to think that thy silence will be deemed an evidence of the weakness of thy cause, or of thy own weakness, in such a case *answer him*, - Matthew Henry

**He should not be answered with agreement to his own ideas and presuppositions, or he will think he is right (v. 4), but rather he should be rebuked on the basis of his folly and shown the truth so he sees how foolish he is (v. 5).**

### 3. Respond to angry people with a soft heart.

**Proverbs 15:1.**

***A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger***

**Calm** – be at rest, cessation of hostility, calming from rage

- Cessation of being adversarial.
- Acknowledging of their anger
- acknowledging your offense.

ii. **Illustration: Me calming the choir in 1994**

**2 Timothy 2:23-26**

***<sup>23</sup> Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. <sup>25</sup> Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will***

### 4. Get a soft heart. Colossians 3:8,12-16

a. **A soft answer requires a soft heart.** Proverbs 15:1

Can only calm a dispute if you are calm.

15:18. “A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger **calms** a dispute.

- a. **A soft heart comes only from having a new heart.** God gives us this new heart when we receive by faith and repentance, Christ as Savior and Lord

Our natural hearts are NOT soft when we are offended. We slander, gossip, hold grudges, revile, isolate from, etc. Romans 3:10-18; Titus. 3:1-2

- b. **God commands us to put off anger** 3:8 This indicates we are ultimately responsible for it.

- c. **God command us to put on a new heart.** 3:12-14

- a. We must choose to obey God in our thinking. He tells us to change our heart toward the person with whom we are angry. Here is the kind of soft heart God commands and will enable us to have through Christ:

- i. Compassion: the ultimate need and condition of the person who angers you
- ii. Kindness: the response to the compassion in deeds that would bless them
- iii. Humility: the view of yourself in light of God's grace and forgiveness to you. Humility is the opposite of pride and indicates anger is often rooted in offended pride: the not receiving what we feel we are owed. Jesus was regarded with contempt though the creator – He didn't harbor anger or threats but entrusted himself to the father.
- iv. Gentleness – humility under fire
- v. Patience – long suffering, continuing to love despite mistreatment.
- vi. Love – sacrificial kindness towards those who don't deserve it.

**d. How we can get a soft, loving heart toward those who offend us:**

- a. **Make sure you are God's** child so you can experience God's heart.

3:12-13 Beloved, Chosen, Holy, forgiven. Christ indwells all who believe in Him and HE produces His love in us.

- b. **Allow Christ's peace to rule in your hearts.** Anger fueled by anxiety and fear. 3:15

- i. We must **know Christ's peace** – Peace with God; Peace of God.

He has overcome the world - therefore no need to fear not having what you need. John 14:27; 16:33

- ii. choose to **allow His peace** to govern our thinking. 3:15 "Let the peace of Christ rule (literally the word means: 'to umpire') in your hearts.

- iii. **Be thankful for Christ's peace!** The evidence of allowing Christ's peace to rule in our thinking is thankfulness.

- c. **Allow Christ's word to settle** down in your hearts and remain at home there. 3:16

- i. With teaching and counseling from the word by other believers.

- ii. By worshiping, singing with thankfulness in your heart