

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/2/17

Text: Ephesians 4:26-27, 29-5:2

Title: The Seven Deadly Sins: Wrath

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together.

Tim continued our series on the Seven Deadly Sins with the sin of Wrath. Wrath, or anger, is our response to an unmet expectation, or our reaction when something we value is threatened. In the same way, God responds in anger and wrath when people violate the things that He values. The problem is that we, in our sin and selfishness, get angry about the wrong things, at the wrong times, and in the wrong proportions. We're more upset with people violating us and our plans than with people violating God and His plans. (Jesus, in anger, overturned the tables in the temple because the priests were violating the people who had come to pray and sacrifice to God.) The beauty of the gospel is that the wrath that's been stored up from our sinning against God and his creation doesn't fall on us, it falls on Jesus. We have rightfully earned God's wrath, but Jesus satisfies it, so that we can be free to put away all of our own wrath, and treat people and God with love, patience and kindness.

Reflection Questions:

- (Tim said that anger reveals our values. In the same way that a child throws a fit because they're not getting their way, we declare our values based on what makes us angry.)*
 - Where in your life are you most likely to become angry? What are the things that cause you to "throw a fit" and what does that reveal about your values?**
- (In verse 31 we have a list of characteristics that describe sinful anger. In defining the words Tim said "bitterness" is like the acrid smell of burnt food, "wrath" is like a frenzy of emotion, "anger" is like heavy breathing and huffing, "clamor" is a noise or increase in volume, "slander" is tearing someone down, and "malice" is ill-will.)*
 - Where in your life do you see characteristics of bitterness, emotional frenzy, huffing in anger, raising your voice in clamor, tearing someone down, or being ill-willed toward someone?**
- (In His love for us God removed our wrath at great expense to himself. Once we see ourselves as extravagantly forgiven, we too will be eager to forgive, and offer love, kindness and patience.)*
 - Who has earned your anger or wrath because they violate/ed what you value or didn't meet your expectations? Who needs your wrath removed from them?**

The Facilitator

A.C.T.S.

(Take some time to list 1 or 2 things in each of these areas then spend some time in prayer, confession and worship as a group.)

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Praise God for His attributes and Actions?

Worship the LORD for His long-suffering patience and kindness, even when we are, by nature, objects of wrath. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His righteousness AND mercy.

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of?

How have you lived, truly angered by how others live, even while you expect others to be patient with you? Confess your pride and inconsistency to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and change your heart.

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus for joyfully following His Father's mission of forgiveness. Thank Him for giving Himself in our place to remove the wrath we deserve; and for loving us to free us from anger against others.

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of love, peace and kindness. Read Psalm 103:8-12. Rejoice in what the LORD has removed from you, so that you can put away wrath, to live instead with a free and loving heart.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through this sermon?

Who do you know that is just consistently angry? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them to see their own wrath-deserving record and that Jesus came to show mercy even to people like them.