



The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 12

March 1, 2026

No. 9

The New Man's Anger

by Heath Rogers

"Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil" (Eph. 4:26-27).

As Paul describes putting off the old man of sin and putting on the new man, we might expect him to deliver a complete prohibition against anger. This emotion produces words and actions that cause pain and destruction. To our surprise, Paul says we can *"be angry."*

The new man *"was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness"* (Eph. 4:24). It is impossible for God to lie (v. 25), but He is very capable of displaying anger when things violate His righteousness and holiness. Jesus expressed anger and righteous indignation (Mark 3:5; John 2:14-16). Being made in God's image (Gen. 1:26-27), we are capable of anger. God allows us to retain this natural emotion, but we are warned to control it.

Anger is dangerous because it is a very strong emotion. All strong emotions are doorways to sin. Cain was angry about God rejecting his offering. *"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it'"* (Gen. 4:6-7, NASB). When we find our anger being aroused, a warning should go off in our head – we are getting dangerously close to sin! If we stay in this state very long, it will give the devil the opening he needs to lead us into performing his will. *"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God"* (James 1:19-20).

Our anger must be resolved quickly - *"Do not let the sun go down on your wrath."* The setting of the sun marks the end of the day. Unresolved anger must never be left out overnight. It robs us of a peaceful night's sleep. We spend hours demonizing the objects of our anger, making them sworn enemies deserving of our wrath. Given the opportunity, anger will turn inward and take root in our heart as bitterness, hatred, and resentment. This residual poison leads to malice and vengeance. None of this belongs in the new man.

We can either control our anger, or it will control us. Christ expects His followers to learn to control all their strong emotions. Anyone can become angry. However, learning to be angry at the right thing, for the right reason, at the right time, and in the right way requires serious spiritual growth and self-control. This is part of putting on the new man.
Knollwood Reminder 2/22/26

Another Lesson from Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Rick Liggin

In a recent issue of this paper, there was an article entitled, "The Blessed Mary...a Lord's Supper Talk." The article pointed us to Mary, the mother of Jesus, as a woman worthy of our admiration and praise, because of her unflinching faith as she quietly endured the heartbreaking event of her own child's wrongful and brutal execution on a Roman cross. Mary was, indeed, an amazing woman.

As I read that article, I remembered another occasion in the life of Mary that moves me to admire her even more. Do you remember the time Luke tells us about *after* the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus when the apostles were staying in an upper room in Jerusalem waiting for the promised coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:12-14)? You might

remember that the apostles were not alone at that time; with them was a gathering of “about one hundred and twenty persons” (1:15). And guess who was one of those one hundred and twenty people? Luke specifically lets us know that *Mary* was there (1:14)!

Now, stop and notice that on this occasion Mary was with the very men who, just a little over a month earlier, had denied her son Jesus and fled like cowards when the soldiers came to arrest Him! And notice that not only was she present with these men, but she evidently accepted their leadership, including that of the man who had denied her son three times in one night with cursing and swearing (Mk. 14:66ff). When the day of Pentecost came and the church was finally established in Jerusalem, it included many of the same folks who had personally cried out for the blood of her son (Acts 2:23).

Wow! What a forgiving spirit this godly woman, Mary, manifested! You just have to appreciate her and want to imitate her!

Some Christians today refuse to be a part of a local church because of what someone in that local church did to them (usually something quite insignificant by comparison); and often, it was something that happened *way* in the past. But here, Mary was a part of a church made up of the very people who had rejected and brutally executed her son; and she followed the leadership of the specific men who had so badly failed her son! Ooh! Aren't we a bit embarrassed now about the silly grudges we sometimes hold and the wrongs we often refuse to forgive!

Evidently, Mary was like the first martyr, Stephen, who had learned from Jesus to say, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Lk. 23:34)! She was there at the cross when Jesus said those words! She learned forgiveness from Him! The story of the cross is all about forgiveness! At the cross, provision was made for our sins to be forgiven! There we witness the forgiving spirit of Christ and the forgiving spirit of our merciful God! Like Mary, we must learn to be forgiving! All offenses committed against us, all hurts we have endured, all the grudges we want to hold tenaciously to—all of these pale in view of the cross of Christ! We must never forget that the unforgiving spirit is unforgivable (cf. Mt. 6:15)! If we want the benefits of the cross of Christ, we must forgive! If Mary could do it, so can I!

Think on These Things Vol. 55 No. 4 2024

"Numbers" versus Real Growth

Paul Earnhart

I have an uneasiness about any great emphasis on statistics in measuring the growth of churches. I am skeptical because numbers can so often mask what is happening to people. The ultimate goal of our Father for His children is both spiritual and personal. He wills that we be "conformed to the image of His Son" (Rom. 8:29). Success or failure in this enterprise cannot be measured by mere statistics.

A far more important question to raise as numbers change is how individual saints are faring in their effort to be more Christ-like. Churches only truly grow as the individual members of those assemblies grow. What is the glory of our numbers if people are not prepared to go to heaven?