

Small Group Questions | January 28th, 2018

Kingdom Wisdom - Anger (Proverbs 14:29-30; 16:32; 19:11, 19; 24:28-29; 25:21-22; 29:11, 22)

Sermon Recap: Rich introduced the topic of anger in Proverbs which exhorts us to be slow to anger. This is not something that comes naturally to us, but God describes His own character this way. Rich pointed out that while we are all well-acquainted with anger, our own, or that we've received from others, it is the dynamite of the soul, destroying us personally and our relationships. Anger also deceives us, but it can positively disclose our idols.

Hook: *These questions can help encourage conversation.*

1. What is the first thing you think about when discussing the topic of anger? Your own anger, or when you've been on the receiving end from angry people?

Look: *Read the sermon passage. Answer the following textual questions.*

2. God describes himself as slow to anger in Exodus 34:5-6. What other qualities surround that description? How might those other qualities help us learn to control our anger?
3. List the positive results of being slow to anger (Prov. 14:29-30, 15:18, 16:32, 19:11)
4. How does anger cause 'much transgression?' (Proverbs 29:22)
5. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus tells us to understand what we are treasuring. How does that help us discover what we might be angry about? (Proverbs 24:28-29)

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

6. Consider your most recent episode of dealing with your own anger. What is hardest about learning the skill of being slow to anger for you?
7. Anger dynamites many good things in our lives: our physical bodies, our relationships, our good judgment. How have you found anger to deceive you in these areas?
8. "Anger is love in motion towards a threat to that which we love." When we make something good to love, into an ultimate love, we have created an idol other than God in our lives. We've 'disordered' our loves. How can we diagnose our anger so that we can truly bring it to Jesus to transform our anger into love? (Proverbs 25:21-22)

Prayer/Verse: *from Strength to Love by Martin Luther King, Jr.: 'Love is the most durable power in the world. This creative force, so beautifully exemplified in the life of our Christ, is the most potent instrument available in mankind's quest for peace and security...May we solemnly realize that we shall never be true sons of our Heavenly Father until we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.'*

As a small group, take some time to pray for your own struggle with anger, those you are angry with, those who are angry with you, and for Jesus' resurrection life to transform these relationships.