

Abhor What Is Evil: The Transformation of Paul's Anger

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Big idea: Jesus doesn't erase anger; he redeems it.

Introduction

Texts: James 1:20; Romans 12:9

Notes:

Reflection Questions

1. Where does my anger most often claim to be “holy” while really serving my comfort or control?
2. What relationships have been harmed by my “certainty”?

Blind Fire

Texts: Acts 7; 8:3; Galatians 1:13; Romans 14:10,12; Ephesians 4:31–32; James 1:20

Notes:

Reflection Questions

1. Where do my snap verdicts show up (home, church, online)? What “standard” am I currently using?
2. Whose anger have I experienced as harmful? What message did it teach me about God, others, or myself?
3. Who has experienced my anger as harmful? What would repentance plus repair look like?
4. Which practice would most help me “put away wrath” (Ephesians 4:31–32): slowing my speech, seeking facts, inviting a wise friend to speak into my blind spots?

The Merciful Interruption

Texts: Acts 9:1–5; Acts 26:14; Romans 8:1; Exodus 3:4; Luke 10:41

Notes:

Reflection Questions

1. If Jesus asked me today, “Why are you persecuting me?” where might my treatment of his people be touching him?
2. Where do I most need to hear my name with mercy—and let Romans 8:1 quiet my defensiveness?
3. Who could be my “Ananias”—a person I’ll invite to lay a steady hand on my shoulder and help me see?

Love-Shaped Fire

Texts: Galatians 1:8–9; 2:4–5; Acts 17:16; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Ephesians 6:12; Acts 20:29; Titus 1:11; Philippians 3:2; Acts 20:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:7; John 11:33–38; Romans 12:9,19; Colossians 1:28–29

Notes:

Reflection Questions

1. What, specifically, should my anger protect this month (a child’s heart, a vulnerable member, gospel clarity)?
2. How might I pair firmness with sorrow (Acts 20:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:7) for the hard conversations I need to have?
3. Where do I need to entrust vengeance to God (Romans 12:19) while still taking wise, concrete steps to report, confront, or protect myself?

Conclusion

Texts: Philippians 3:10; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:15; Acts 9:17 (“Brother Saul”)

Notes:

Reflection Questions

1. What one relationship will I approach this week with “light instead of heat,” and what will that look like in practice?
2. Which truth will I rehearse when anger flares: “I am crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20) or “I want to know him” (Philippians 3:10)? Why?
3. What step can our church/small group take to be an Ananias-community—quick to say “brother/sister” and to protect?