

## Fact Check: Reconsidering Popularly Misinterpreted Scriptures

Sermon #2: Ephesians 4:26 | Rethinking Anger

### The Question: Should we ever get angry?

- Anger has become a “Christian no-no,” but it is a Biblical position?
  - 1 Samuel 15:14-33
- Pastors are especially forbidden from anger:
  - Quote from Daniel Parker: “Anger is perhaps the most toxic and volatile behavior a preacher can exhibit. It’s what happens when bitterness is allowed to fester and arrogance is left unchecked. When anger rears its ugly head in a sermon, you can be sure that it is the outworking of the pastor’s inner turmoil. The pastor’s heart is poisoned, and he’s spewing venom. Anger with a microphone is detrimental to the health of the church.”<sup>1</sup>

### The Command: Be Angry!

- Many translations of this verse insert man’s ideas on top of God’s Words.
  - New Century Version | Eph 4:26 “When you are angry, do not sin, and be sure to stop being angry before the end of the day”
    - The Bible gives a command, not a suggestion for response.
    - “Do not sin” is not the heart of the command (“Do not sin when you are angry”)
    - We are never told to “stop being angry” by day’s end.
  - The Message | Eph 4:26 Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don’t use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don’t stay angry. Don’t go to bed angry.
    - Where is the command?
    - This verse says nothing about revenge!
    - This paraphrase doesn’t tell us what to do with our anger!
  - NLT | Eph 4:26 And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry,
    - The command is not “don’t sin”
    - The verse is not about being controlled by anger
    - The verse is not supposed to be negative toward anger.
  - GNB | Eph 4:26 If you become angry, do not let your anger lead you into sin, and do not stay angry all day.
    - There is no “if” in this verse!

- Paul never spoke about anger leading to sin in this verse!
- There is no command not to let our anger last all day!
- NIV | Eph 4:26 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry
  - Where is the command?
  - There is no command to be done with your anger by day’s end.
- NASB95 | Eph 4:26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger
  - There is no “yet,” as if the anger is the cause of the sin.
- What does the passage say?
  - A command: Be angry!
  - A conjunction: *and* sin not.
  - A conclusion: The sin is in not getting angry.

### The Crowd: Our Christian family

- Because we are **members of one another** we cannot afford to avoid anger.
  - Lay aside the *pseudo* and speak truth (v. 25)
  - Ephesians 4:31-32 provide some important insight.

### The Curfew: Don’t let the sun go down!

- Anger is something that should be dealt with quickly, while it is at the surface level.

### When to get angry-

- When falsehood is being spoken.
- When someone is unjustly attacked.
- When integrity is being compromised.
- When doctrine is being endangered.
- When the name and reputation of our Savior is maligned.

### When *not* to get angry-

- When it is possible you are just irritable.
- When you have no desire for restoration.
- When the offense can be overlooked.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.preachitheat.org/articles/detail/five-toxic-behaviors-in-the-pulpit/>