

LIFE IN THE AGE OF OUTRAGE

Sunday, November 8, 2020 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 3 | **Outrage and Wrongs**

Multiple Scriptures

We are sent to love people and invite them
to follow Jesus with us.

There are things we
MUST get angry about

things that anger God Jeremiah 2:5-9; Proverbs 6:16-19; John 11:33, 38; Mark 3:1-6

our lack of anger may actually contribute to outrage

—but always in the
SAME WAY God gets angry

God's anger is measured and under control

Revelation 8

righteous anger v. worldly outrage

Exodus 34:5-7; James 1:20

the fruit of self-control

Galatians 5:23; Proverbs 26:4-5

*"Self-control is not self-management, it is denying power
to the old self and yielding control to the new self."*

because we're sent
to **REPRESENT** *his* Kingdom.

Jesus is the ultimate judge

Romans 12:19; Psalm 69



What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

Getting Started

Getting to Know You: Part of our goal together is getting to know one another. *Describe the last time you were angry in a righteous way. How was that different from feeling outrage? How was the outcome similar or different?*

Review your message notes and this week's Scripture. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

** This week's questions are adapted from:*

Ed Stetzer and Andrew MacDonald, Christians at Our Best: A Six-Week Guide to Living in the Age of Outrage (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Momentum, 2019).

Responding to Wrongs

Scripture constantly warns us against anger because of its potential to cause lasting damage to ourselves and those around us. **Read Ephesians 4:24-27, 31-32**

1. Why does Paul put anger in the list of sins? How is this kind of anger different from righteous anger? Why is it so important to resolve such anger quickly (before the sun goes down)?
2. Take time to think through anger in your own life. What are some ways that you let anger control you? When you let human anger get hold of you, what other sins listed in verse 31 do you struggle with?
3. Paul encourages believers to pursue kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness as a remedy to human anger. How can these virtues help make sure we do not sin in anger? How does God's forgiveness through Christ fit in?

Too often we believe the lie that our anger is righteous, that it is okay to scream and yell because we are right. The truth, however, is that most of the time our anger is our sinfulness getting the better of us. Below are six defining characteristics of outrage (wait to read the Scripture until question 6). This is "human anger," focusing on our own wants and needs rather than allowing our response to flow from God's righteousness.

Outrage is...

Disproportionate (Micah 6:8)

Divisive (Romans 12:16)

Domineering (Luke 6:31)

Selfish (Ephesians 4:2)

Visceral (Colossians 3:13-14)

Dishonest (Ephesians 4:25)

4. What do the six characteristics of outrage tell us about the resulting behavior or attitude? How does this run contrary to the righteousness of God?
5. Which of these characteristics tend to show up when you get angry? How has this hurt your relationships with others? With God?
6. Read the accompanying Bible verse for each characteristic above. How can Scripture offer us a better way than outrage?

Final thoughts for discussion:

- How often are you quick to respond with outrage? What is it that sets you off? Think through some steps you can follow instead when you start to feel angry.
- How often do you struggle to let things go? Are you holding on to wrongs that you feel people have committed? If you find yourself in arguments, disagreements, and conflict regularly, think through what is really important versus what you can let go.
- How often are you trying to win the argument rather than trying to win over the person? How effective are you at listening and responding to others so your disagreements end amicably? How can you be more effective in keeping God's glory at the center of your disagreement?

Pray

Share prayer requests in your group, and be sure every person is prayed for by name.



NOVEMBER CHALLENGE

Pray for a Neighboring Church.

Before you close, have someone in your group pull out their phone, open Maps, and search for "church". Spend some time praying for one of the local churches that pop up nearest to you. (If Wawasee Bible pops up first, go to the next one!)

Word Find for Exodus 34:5-7 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

5 Then the LORD came down in a cloud and stood there with him; and he called out his own name, Yahweh. **6 The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.** **7 I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations."**

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