

STUDY NOTES FROM KAREN HOERDEL'S "DOORWAYS TO THE DEVIL" TEACHING SERIES

Anger Is Idolatry

Genesis 4: 3-8

Psalms 37:8

Proverbs 15:1, 18

Proverbs 16:32

Proverbs 17:1, 14, 19

Proverbs 10:11, 19

Proverbs 20:3

Proverbs 25:11, 24

Proverbs 27:15

Proverbs 29:11

Proverbs 30:33

Ephesians 4: 26,27,31

Romans 12:18-21 Be a peacemaker (not a peacekeeper)

James 1:5, 19 Seek God's wisdom, God's way

Of the seven deadly sins, anger is possibly the most fun.

To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past,

To roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontation to come.

To savor the last toothsome morsel of both the pain you are giving and the pain you are getting back,

In many ways it is a feast fit for a king.

The chief drawback is that what you are wolfing down is yourself.

The skeleton at the feast is you.

Bitterness and anger is a result of unforgiveness. Your needs (idols) were not met.

Your expectations were in the wrong place. Have expectations only in God.

NOT I, BUT

Lord, bend that proud and stiffnecked "I". Help me to bow the neck and die,

CHRIST Galatians 2:20

Beholding Him on Calvary, Who bowed His Head for me.

Anger is Idolatry

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The Bible says in Deuteronomy 32: 16-17, "They made Him (God) jealous with strange gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons who were not God." It goes on to say "because they had been a perverse (unfaithful) generation and because they had made Him jealous and had provoked Him to anger with their idols that He (God) in turn would make them JEALOUS with those who are not a people (demon spirits) and would PROVOKE them to ANGER with a foolish nation" (Deut. 32:21).

You will find anger lurking behind every idol in your life. The more angry you are, the

more idols you have in your life. Proverbs 29:22 says, "An angry man stirs strife and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgressions."

You and I get angry because we EXPECT. We get angry because we expect others to bow down to our idols: love US, meet OUR needs, notice US, value US, receive US, make US look good, pamper US, place US on a pedestal, treat US special, obey OUR pharisaical rules and rituals (which look good and feel good to OUR flesh and have an appearance of wisdom, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence) with little or NO REGARD for the Word of the LORD (His plans or purposes), etc. We expect others to tow the mark and keep their noses to the grindstone for our god of SELF. When they don't, we get angry. We are jealous for our idols and we get angry when others don't share out same love and devotion for them.

Anger is idolatry because it breaks God's law of love. It is all right to make our needs known (in love) as it is certainly normal for us to have needs; but, the problem comes in for us when we become angry each time those needs are not met. "A man's discretion (understanding, intellect, prudence) makes him slow to anger and it is his glory to overlook a transgression" Proverbs 19:11.

Jesus said in Matthew 5 that He did not come to abolish the law but He came to fulfill it. What he was saying is that you and I still have to keep the law but now we keep it another way. No longer do we have to keep the letter of the law which kills; but, now we have to keep the Spirit of the Law which is to "LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD WITH ALL OUR HEARTS, MINDS, SOULS AND BODIES AND OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES." Galatians 5:14 says "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." James 1:19 states that we are to be "quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God (LOVE)."

If I Corinthians 13 best describes love as being patient, then hate must be impatient; if love is kind, hate must be unkind; if love is not envious, hate is envious; if love does not brag and is not arrogant, then hate brags and is arrogant. If love does not act unbecomingly, then hate acts unbecomingly; if love does not seek its own way and is not easily provoked, then hate seeks its own way and is easily provoked. If love does not take into account a wrong suffered, hate takes into account a wrong suffered and is unforgiving. If love does not rejoice in unrighteousness and rejoices with the truth, then hate rejoices in unrighteousness and lies. If love bears all things, hate bears nothing. If love believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, then hate lives in unbelief, hopes for nothing and endures nothing. If love never fails, hate always fails. Hate manifests itself in anger. Since anger (hate) is the opposite of love, when we are angry we become lawbreakers and must pay the penalty according to God's righteous Law of sowing and reaping. Proverbs 19:19 says, "A man of great anger must bear the penalty."

In every court of law there is a judge, an opponent, an officer and a prison. Matthew chapter five goes on to say that when we are angry with our brother, we shall be guilty before the court. Even guilty enough to go into the fiery hell (Sheol). Galatians 5:19 states emphatically, "if it is our habit or custom to habitually practice anger then we will not inherit eternal life." In Luke 10:25, "A certain lawyer stood up and put Him (Jesus) to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him by asking him a question, "What is written in the Law?" The lawyer said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul; and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And He (Jesus) answered him saying, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE (have eternal life)." "By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his

brother.” “WE KNOW we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him” (I John 3:10, 4-15). “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and every one who loves is born of God and KNOWS God” (I John 4:7).

Prayers or Speaking Off the Different Types of Anger

Cultural

Father God, In the name of Jesus I place the Cross of Jesus and the blood of Jesus between me and my cultural inheritance. I speak off every emotion of that inheritance, anger, fear, anxiety and grief and wash myself clean from these things with the blood of the Lamb. I separate myself, my children and my children’s children from these things in the name of Jesus.

Generational

Father God, in the name of Jesus I take accountability for and recognize as sin, my ancestors generational iniquities of anger, fear, anxiety and grief. I separate myself with the cross of Jesus and the blood of Jesus from my ancestors iniquities of anger, fear, anxiety and grief and I was myself clean from these things with the blood of the Lamb. I separate myself, my children and my children’s children from these things in the name of Jesus.

Personal

Father God, in the name of Jesus I take accountability for and recognize as sin, my iniquities and sins of anger, fear, anxiety and grief. I separate myself with the cross of Jesus and the blood of Jesus from these things and speak them out of my life and I wash myself clean from these things with the blood of the Lamb. I separate myself, my children and my children’s children from these things in the name of Jesus. Holy Spirit of God, go deep into my life and fill every area left vacant by these things and seal the door so that they may never return.

Associations

Father God, in the name of Jesus I remit the sins of anger, fear, anxiety and grief and I take accountability for and recognize as sin, my part in allowing these things to manifest in my life. I separate myself with the cross of Jesus and the blood of Jesus from these things and speak them out of my life and I wash myself clean from these things with the blood of the Lamb. I separate myself, my children and my children’s children from these things in the name of Jesus. Holy Spirit of God, go deep into my life and fill every area left vacant by these things and seal the door so that they may never return.

DYING TO SELF

When you are forgotten or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you don’t sting or hurt with the insult or oversight, but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refused to let anger rise up in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you are content with any food and any little amount, any offering, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God,
THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown,
THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met, and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances,
THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself, and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up with your heart,
THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

Are you dead yet?

In these last days the Spirit would bring us to the cross,
"That I may know Him...Being made conformable to His death."

We must die to self in order to live for Christ.