

When Humor Helped Keep His Shirt On

Author Unknown

President Truman appointed Newbold Morris to investigate crime and its management in high government circles. Later that year, Morris was in the witness chair answering a barrage of pointed questions from the Senate subcommittee regarding the sale of some ships by his New York company.

The investigation was becoming hot and fierce. Morris' face took on a look of pain, then of surprise, and then of anger. Amidst the excitement, he shouted, as he reached into his coat and produced a sheet of white paper.

"Wait a minute. I have a note here from my wife. It says, 'Keep your shirt on.'"

Everybody laughed and the angry excitement died down, at least temporarily.

Yielding Personal "Rights"

Author Unknown

The public library had a system called "Dial-A-Tale." Anytime a young child wanted to hear a fairy tale, he could call the number and a voice came on reading a short fairy tale to the listening young ear. However, the number was only one digit

different than Rev. Tom Erickson's number.

Because the small fingers often make a mistake, Tom got frequent calls from a child wanting a fairy tale. After several unsuccessful attempts to explain a wrong number to the small child, Tom felt he had only one alternative. He obtained a copy of Three Little Pigs, and set it by the phone. Whenever a child called, he simply read him the tale. A beautiful illustration of yielding personal rights and avoiding anger.

He didn't, as you might have thought, change his telephone number to avoid the "invasion of his privacy", as some might have done.

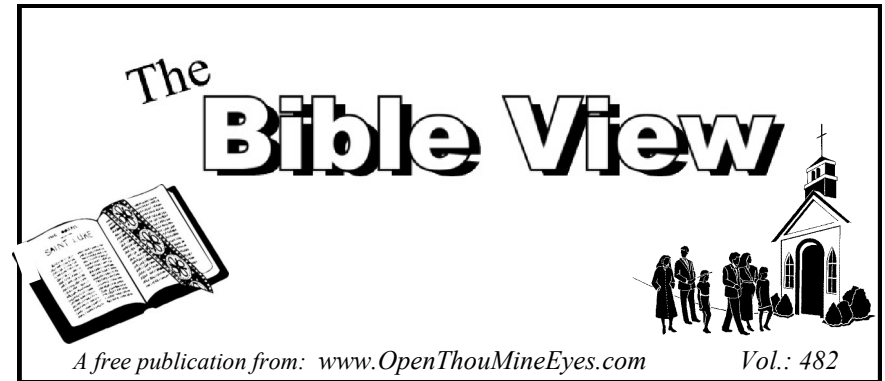
Unhappy and Last Place

Author Unknown

A Do-it-yourself catalog firm received the following letter from one of its customers: "I built a birdhouse according to your stupid plans, and not only is it much too big, it keeps blowing out of the tree. Signed, Unhappy."

The firm replied: "Dear Unhappy, We're sorry about the mix-up. We accidentally sent you a sailboat blueprint. But if you think you are unhappy, you should read the letter from the guy who came in last in the yacht club regatta."

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Get It Right, before Bedtime...

Bill Brinkworth

Part of man's makeup includes the emotion, "anger". Perhaps, because we are made in the image of our Creator, we received this reaction to certain situations from Him.



Reading the Scriptures, one will quickly see some instances where God was angry. There were times when God was angry with Moses (Ex. 4:14), Aaron (Deut. 9:20), Israel (Deut. 9:8, II Kings 17:18), Solomon (I King 11:9), and the wicked on a daily basis (Psalms 7:11). God's only son, Jesus, also got angry at times. He was angered at hardened hearts (Mark 3:5). Most likely Jesus was angered when He saw people making the Temple, a place of worship, into a place of commerce (John 2:14-15).

However, when God and Jesus got angry there was no sin involved. God is Holy (Lev. 19:2, I Sam. 2:2) and does not sin, nor does His Son (Heb. 4:15). Anger

does not necessarily need to be sinful.

There are some things that still make God angry, and I am sure still make Jesus angry. There are some things we encounter in this life that should make a Christian angry. The killing of 4,000 innocent babies a day by abortion

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When Anger Is Sinful

J. Beaumont, 1871

Anger is sin:

- ◇ When we are angry with the providence of God.
- ◇ When we are angry with the laws of God.
- ◇ When we are angry at the doctrines taught in the Word of God.
- ◇ When we are angry at the good we see in others.
- ◇ When we are angry with those who differ from us in religious sentiments.
- ◇ When we are angry at reproof.
- ◇ When we wish evil upon our reprover.

Get It Right, before...

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should make a Christian angry. The world's brainwashing attempt to get people to accept and tolerate sin should get a believer angry. Punishing righteousness and godly living should make one angry. Christians live in a world where many things are done contrary to what the Bible teaches we should do, and they should get angry over that. We should love the sinner, but sin should make us angry.

Sometimes people's reactions to things, that may not necessarily be sin, get them mad. No matter what makes us angry, we need to be careful as anger can lead to sin. A Christian must always be wary of getting involved in sin. He must avoid anything that may at one point get him to commit iniquity.

For this reason, God has given us a blow-off valve so the pressures from our anger do not evolve into sin. God's warning is that no matter what gets you angry, make sure you get it right before the day is over. Before the sun goes down and before you put your head on your pil-

"A man that does not know how to be shaken to his heart's core with indignation over things evil is either a fungus or a wicked man" — Beecher

low, make sure you deal with your anger.

"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Ephesians 4:26

If you find yourself angry with your wife, family member, person at work, or anyone, make sure you get it right before the day is over. That means that someone may have to shed a little pride and talk a day's provocation out with one's spouse before bedtime. A child may need to be apologized to because a parent's temper was lost during a discipline situation. Perhaps a phone call needs to be made to get a relationship right with an employee or neighbor. If we want to end the possible consequences of improper handling of anger, it should be dealt with as soon as possible.

Not dealing with anger quickly, often results in hostilities and feelings being bottled up. When one wakes up the next day, those emotions are strengthened and hardened in one's mind. The longer they remain undealt with, the harder they will ever be to reconcile.

Unreconciled feelings often lead to hardened, unpliant hearts. A hardened heart leads to bitterness. Before long, one may have developed a bitter spirit towards an individual or even a group of people, all because anger was never dealt with, and it festered and grew. Often, the person may not even realize what has happened to

him. All because one let a day go by without humbling one's self and getting a problem resolved before the sun went down.

Perhaps, many suns have set on your anger. Resulting bitterness has robbed you of joy you once had. Every time you see a certain person, or hear his name, the old, unforgiven memories churn up, and you find yourself facing the same anger. It would have been much easier to remedy those feelings on the day it happened, but it is never too late to get your angry feelings right with another. Yes, it may be the other person who did something terribly wrong. However, your anger has robbed you of your joy and that sin may have robbed you of having a closer walk and relationship with the Lord. Get it right today — before the sun goes down.

Uncontrolled Anger

Oliver B. Greene

Alexander the Great was one of the few men in history who seemed to deserve his descriptive title. He was energetic, versatile, and intelligent. Although hatred was not generally part of his nature, several times in his life he was tragically defeated by anger. The story is told of one of these occasions, when a dear friend of Alexander, a general in his army, became intoxicated and began to ridicule the emperor in front of his men. Blinded by anger and

"Anyone can become angry. That is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, and in the right way — that is not easy."

— Antinomy

quick as lightning, Alexander snatched a spear from the hand of a soldier and hurled it at his friend. Although he had only intended to scare the drunken general, his aim was true and the spear took the life of his childhood friend.

Deep remorse followed his anger. He was overcome with guilt, Alexander attempted to take his own life with the same spear, but he was stopped by his men. For days he lay sick, calling for his friend and chiding himself as a murderer.

Alexander the Great conquered many cities and countries, but he had failed miserably to control his own spirit.

"Anger is like the waves of a troubled sea; when it is corrected with a soft reply it retires, and leaves nothing behind but froth and shells; no permanent mischief"

— Taylor