

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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GOD’S VIEW OF ANGER

Larry R. Ping II

1) ANGER MUST BE SLOW IN BUILDING. The wise man made this point abundantly clear. He said, “Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly” (Prov. 14:29), and “A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention” (Prov. 15:18) and “Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city” (Prov. 16:32). When we feel anger welling up inside of us, we would do well to recall these verses. Will you? Will I?

2) ANGER IS BORN OF HARSH WORDS. Solomon warned, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Prov. 15:1). What else would harsh words do? Anger is accelerated by wrong and hateful words, and we must be extra careful regarding the words we choose. A good, thorough reading of I Samuel 25:10-13, and the dealings

between David and Nabal show Solomon’s words to be very true. No wonder it is written, “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits*” (Prov. 18:21). Are you choosing your words carefully and wisely? Am I?

3) ANGER MAKES DANGEROUS COMPANY. The Word of God cautions, “Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare” (Prov. 22:24-25). These words verily prove the folks with whom we associate will impact us, and often in a very negative way. The Good Book warns, “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm” (Prov. 13:20). The New Testament adds, “Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals” (I Cor. 15:33). Are we watching closely enough those with whom we are associating? We must!

4) ANGER BRINGS DISASTROUS RESULTS. Paul lists “fits of anger” as a sin which causes one to not be able to “not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:20-21). This is why the preacher penned, “Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools” (Eccl. 7:9). If anger is an issue for you, it must be rooted out of your life before it ends in eternal separation from God.

5) ANGER, AT TIMES, IS PERMITTED. The apostle wrote, “Be angry and do not sin” (Eph. 4:26). Anger is called for when sin is rampant, such as the case in Exodus 32 when Aaron and the people fashioned a golden calf and worshipped it! Of Moses it was said, his “...anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them” (Exo. 32:19). Be angry about sin, but recall the rest of Ephesians 4:26 which says, “do not let the sun go down on your anger.” Are you minding both of these rules?

WOMEN ARE NOT TO...

Brad Phillips (Belleville, Indiana)

The topic concerning how involved a woman can be in the church is one that needs to be taken very seriously. Why? Well, because we live in a time when many disagree with the respective role that God has assigned to a woman. Therefore, many are unfortunately turning away from God's instruction regarding the role of a woman in the church, and are instituting their own rules on the matter of what women can do in the church. So, knowing that, let's examine what the Bible has to say concerning what women are not permitted to do in the church.

Women Are Not Permitted To Be Elders or Deacons. In writing to Timothy concerning the qualifications of an elder the apostle Paul wrote, "This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife..." (1 Timothy 3:1-2). Now, notice what Paul said. He said, if a man, not a woman, but if a man desired the position of an elder, then he, not she, desired a good work. He also says that an elder must be the husband of one wife, not the wife of one husband. Likewise, Paul, in regard to the qualifications of deacons said, "Let deacons be the husbands of one wife..." (1 Tim.

3:12). Now, God's all inspired word does not get any more clearer than that when it comes to the matter of a woman serving as an elder or as a deacon in the church. Therefore, we must take heed to the all inspired word of God, and we must always appoint qualified men, and only men as elders or deacons in the church.

Women Are Not Permitted To Preach. Paul, while instructing the Corinthian brethren on how to conduct proper order in the Lord's church penned, "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law says" (1 Corinthians 14:34). Now, this verse is often taken out of its context, and some believe that women are to be absolutely silent, making no sound what so ever in the church assembly (i.e. if this is so, then women would not be permitted to sing in worship to God). However, when we keep this verse in its proper context, we can determine the speaking that is forbidden is of a woman publicly addressing the church. For, if she did so, she would be in violation of her place of submission to a man. For, Paul said, "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Cor. 11:3). Again, we

must take heed to the all inspired word of God. Therefore, we must not permit women to preach or have any part in the worship service (i.e. lead a prayer, lead singing, preside at the Lord's table etc.) where she publicly addresses the church.

Women Are Not Permitted To Have Authority Over A Man. We read in 1 Tim. 2:11-14, "Let a woman learn in silence and submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the women being deceived, fell into transgression." Here, Paul again emphasizes the importance of a woman being in submission to a man, and he says women are not to teach or have authority over men. Therefore, this means that women have no Scriptural authority to teach in any setting were they exercise authority over men.

Now, although there are many today who disagree with the restrictions that God has placed on the involvement of women in the church, we must always respect the limitations that God has put in place concerning a woman's role in the church!

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm