

WHY ALL THE ANGER?

Are we an angry society? Why do we applaud angry attitudes and emotions? Or don't we?

No, we don't think our neighbor should be an angry guy, especially as it relates to his relationship with us. What wife thinks it is desirable to have an angry husband? Who appreciates angry screaming from the child in the grocery store? We really don't think anger is acceptable in the workplace—for sure not if it is a coworker or the boss! What about in the school? Is that an acceptable place to display anger and bad attitudes? Ask the teachers and school management and see what they say.

What about violence? NO!! No tolerance for violence! OK, so tell me how much violence isn't preceded by anger. Maybe if anger were less acceptable there would be less violence. Proverbs 14:17 says. "*He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly.*" So we can see that anger distorts sound judgment and causes regrettable decisions.

Why do so many people find anger so entertaining and interesting? A movie commentator recently made the statement: "Anger in people is looked down upon but anger, wrath, fury, rage, or whatever form and name it takes, in cinema, it sells big time."

If that is the diet people feed themselves and their children, what do we expect? Training children correct values is hard enough without that kind of input.

Let's look at what we see in today's marketing. It seems as though the thought is "anger sells." The new Camaro has an "angry look." How about an "Angry burger" for lunch? You can always have "Angry" beef sticks for a snack, and you might like some "Fierce Grape" drink to go with that.

Do we really believe that "*he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty ...*" (Proverbs 16:32)?

None of us who claim to be Christians may allow our culture to affect us in this way. First of all, deal with any anger in your own life, flee exposure to anger in books, magazines, and the entertainment world and then work with your family, and others.

After all, the New Testament mandate is: "*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger ... be put away from you, with all malice*" (Ephesians 4:31).

~Clay Zimmerman