

The Deadly Sin of Anger – Pt. 2

Matthew 5:21–26

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MAIN IDEA: In Matthew 5:21–26, Jesus Christ addresses the sin of anger. And he teaches that in God’s eyes sinful anger violates the sixth commandment (“You shall not murder”).¹ As Jesus’ disciples we must never excuse our sinful anger, and we must reconcile quickly when anger has breached our relationships.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The Law Against Murder Quoted (21a)
 - A. Murder (Num. 35:30)
 - B. Manslaughter caused by recklessness or gross negligence (Ex. 21:29)
- II. The Law against Murder Misinterpreted (21b)
 - A. They made it solely a physical act.
 - B. They made it entirely a negative command.
 - C. They made it primarily a social crime.
- III. The Law against Murder Explained (22)
 - A. “Everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court” (22a).
 - B. “And whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the Supreme Court” (22b).
 - C. “And whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell” (22c).

God allowed taking human life in three cases...

- 1. Self-defense or defense of another innocent human life (Ex. 22:2; Lk. 22:36, 38)
- 2. Capital punishment (Num. 35:30; cf. Gen. 9:6; Rom. 13:4)
- 3. Just war (Rom. 13:4)

Implications

- 1. If you’re not a believer in Jesus, this passage forces you to come to grips with your need of the gospel!
- 2. If you’re already a believer, Jesus intends for you to apply His teaching in at least four ways...
 - a. Don’t justify your sinful anger but accept full responsibility.
 - b. Don’t tolerate your sinful anger but put it to death.
 - c. Don’t ignore your sinful anger but be quick to seek forgiveness from God and reconciliation with the one you sinned against.
 - d. Don’t be ungrateful but give praise & thanks to God that in Christ He has forgiven you.

¹ For an in-depth explanation of the sixth commandment, see Pastor Tom’s book, *The Biblical View of Abortion* (Southlake, TX: The Word Unleashed, 2025).

BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 9:6. What truths does this important verse teach us about God and his view of mankind? What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Ultimately, murder and the anger from which it flows are attacks against God. As we deal with anger in our own lives, why must we readily review the fact that our sin is primarily against God? How will this help us in our battle against sinful anger?
2. Why is it important that we never tolerate our own anger but *quickly* deal with it? As we deal with anger, is it profitable to have other Christians help you and keep you accountable? Do you have accountability partners in general? Discuss.
3. As we look to put off anger and replace it with many biblical virtues, why must we constantly reflect on the forgiveness of sins that we have in the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why should this fuel our praise of thanks to God? Discuss.