

Love One Another Part 4!

Matthew 5:21 *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:*

22 *But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry (provokes) with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca (insults), shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool (good for nothing), shall be in danger of hell fire.*

Jesus compares **hatred/anger** with **murder**!

Jesus says to be **angry** or make your brother angry is **hatred**!

The Greek word here means “to provoke, enrage or deeply upset”
Someone constantly upset with their brother over small things!

- ❖ Anyone with common sense knows **murder** is the most serious offense against God and creation.

Murdering someone says they have **no value in the world** and it's better for everyone if they were eliminated.

Because of **anger and hatred** the **spirit of murder** has grown stronger since Cain murdered Abel—to murder on the streets to, abortion to terrorism!

Remember WWTB when we talked about the commandment of **not eating blood**? God also goes on to say:

ESV Genesis 9:5 *And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.*

6 *"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.*

Murder of another person (spilling their blood) is a very serious matter to God and in most every civilized society!

Murdering another person without probable cause is a direct assault against God because man is made in the image of God!

Again Jesus compares **anger** (the absence of love) with **murder**!

- **The first death on earth was by murder!**

Cain killed his brother because of anger—anger is the root of murder!

*ESV Ephesians 4:26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
27 and give no opportunity to the devil.*

Anger (the absence of love) gives the devil (diablos) the accuser, slanderer and opposer of God an **opportunity**.

Opportunity comes from the word **port** which is the harbor, gate or entrance to a city—**anger gives the devil an entrance into our spirit!**

Jesus says **being angry** over trivial things butts us **under judgment!**

Next Jesus compares speaking **insults** against a believer with murder!

If **anger** goes unchecked it can turn into **speaking** evil to a brother calling them “**worthless and good for nothing.**”

All sin begins with an attitude: anger leads to evil words that lead to evil deeds. The NT believer is judged not just by our deeds but our attitudes and words. **Every careless word comes under judgment (Matt 12:36)**

Jesus says people who say evil damaging things to people are worthy to be brought before the Sanhedrin—the highest court in the land.

Sometimes believers know how to be so nice and polite in public but in private they will curse you out and tear your head off—**this is not Love!**

Lastly Jesus says anyone who says *publically* that a brother is a **fool** (**godless, heathen unworthy of redemption**) is in danger of going to hell!

Wait a minute! Jesus says speaking openly about another brother saying God can't use them, they have no value in The Kingdom or they're going to hell might in fact send that person to hell!

It's unfortunate that when some folks are angry with you instead of coming to you to work it out, they try to convince everyone they know to be angry with you—**that's not love!**

Notice the progressive in the punishment is because of the progression in the act—first it's an emotion, then it becomes something said to your brother and grows to something said to others about your brother.

❖ **Jesus says these are all forms of spiritual murder and worthy of highest punishment!**

Feeling, thinking and speaking evil against a brother is an attack on their spirit!

NJB Proverbs 18:14 *Sickness the human spirit can endure, but when the spirit is broken, who can bear this?*

A man sustains the ills of his body, and the trials of life, by the strength of his spirit. But if the spirit is weakened by constant attacks who can handle it without God's intervention?

KJV Proverbs 17:22 *A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*

The opposite of merry is dejected, anguished, grieved, downcast and broken hearted.

So it would seem that **lies and deceit** would weaken the human spirit more than many things.

❖ **If that's true then nothing would make the heart and mind of a believer merrier, happier and stronger than Truth.**

NJB 1 Corinthians 13:6 *Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth.*

When we love one another as Christ loves us we get the greatest joy from sharing God's Word/Truth with each other!

ESV Ephesians 4:15 *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...!*

Because speaking the truth is the only way we can help one another grow in Christ!

Not through lying, flattery or slandering one another—as we've learned this makes people weak, dejected and heartbroken

ESV Job 32:18 *For I am full of words; the spirit within me constrains me.*

KJV 2 Corinthians 5:14 *For the love of Christ constraineth us!*

The apostle Paul quotes Job's friend Elihu who says he will not speak words that tear Job down, nor takes side with his friends.

Our words must be under the (control) influence of The Holy Spirit who deposits the love of God into our hearts!

Elihu whose name means "He is my God"!

He sought to speak the truth in love, not takes sides or gain favor with one over the other—but would speak as his spirit was under the influence of The Holy Spirit!