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Love is Not Easily Angered
13: 5c



If we bear in mind the trait of **unselfishness** (**to see link click Db – Love is Not Selfish**), it is easier to understand that **love is not easily angered** (Greek: from the root *paroxuno*)**,** provoked, irritated, embittered or enraged, rather, they are **patient** (see **Cv – Love is Patient**). While **love** treats others with **kindness** (see **Cw – Love is Kind**), in turn, many times it receives just the opposite. **Paul's** life was full of such experience, especially from **his** fellow **Jews** who ought to have especially **loved him**. **He** did not accuse **them (Acts 28:19)**, **he** did the opposite, when **he** said: **Bless those who persecute you (Romans 12:14).**[414]

But **the apostle** does not rule out righteous indignation. Like **his Lord, Paul** was only **angered** by the things that **anger God**. **Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness (13:6a).** To be **angered** by the distortion or contradiction of **God's Word** is righteous indignation. But when it is truly righteous, indignation will never be provoked by something done against us personally. **Paul** responded strongly against such things as heresy, immorality, and misuse of spiritual gifts. **He** became **angry** (Greek: from the root *paroxuno*) when **he** saw that **Athens was full of idols (Acts 17:16)**. When **Yeshua** cleared **the Temple, He** was **angered** at the violation of **His Father's house of prayer** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Iv – Jesus Entered the Temple Area and Drove Out All Who Were**

Buying and Selling). But on many occasions when **He** was personally abused, **He** did not become **angry** or defensive **(John 18:19-24)**.

The becoming **easily angered** that **Paul** wrote to **the Corinthians** about has to do with things done against us or that are personally offensive. **Love** does not get **angry** with others when they say or do something that displeases us or when they prevent us from having our own way **(First Peter 2:21-24)**. **Love** never reacts in self-defense or retaliation. Being **easily angered** is the other side of seeking one's own way. The person who is intent on having his own way is **easily angered** or **easily provoked**.

Surely one influencing factor for mental and physical illness in our society today is the overwhelming preoccupation with our rights and the resulting **anger**. When everyone is fighting for his or her own rights, no one can really succeed or be content. Everyone grabs, no one gives, and everyone loses – even when one gets what he or she wants. **Anger** can never win in any meaningful or lasting way. It always costs more than it gains.

We sometimes get **angry** when another person gains a privilege or recognition we want for ourselves, because it is our "right." But to put our rights before our duty and before the loving concern for others comes from self-centeredness and lovelessness. The **loving** person is more concerned about doing what he should and helping where he can than in having what he thinks are his rights and his due. Love considers nothing is a "right" and everything is an obligation.

The ultimate test for being **easily angered** is in the home, behind closed doors. Telling our family that we love them is merely empty words if we continually get upset and angry at what they say and do. Telling our wives or husbands that we love them is not convincing if we are snapping at them all the time. Telling our children that we love them is merely words if we often yell at them for doing things that irritate us and interfere with our plans. It does no good to protest, "I lose my temper a lot, but it's all over in a few minutes." So is a nuclear bomb. A great deal of damage can be done in a very short time. Temper is always destructive, and even small temper "bombs" can leave much hurt and damage, especially when they explode on a regular basis. Lovelessness is the cause of temper, and love is the only cure. **Love** that takes a person outside of himself and centers his attention on the well-being of others is the only cure for self-centeredness.[415]

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for **Your** wisdom that wisely gets **angry** at evil,*

*but is patient with **Your** children. When we sin, **You** could reject us or hurt us; but instead, **You** gently draw us back to **You** so we can repent with genuine sorrow for our wrong, and then **You** graciously forgive us.* ***For the grief that God wills brings a repentance that leads to salvation, leaving no regret. But the world's grief brings death. For see what this very thing – this grieving that God wills – has brought you! What diligence, what defense, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what rendering of justice! In everything you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter (Second Corinthians 7:10-11).*** *Thank **You** for sending the **Ruach Ha'Kodesh** to convict **the world of sin (First John 16:8)** so that we turn from sin to follow **You** as our **Lord** and **Savior**, embracing **Your** gracious offer of forgiveness. **You** are so loved! In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*