

## The Attitude of Anger

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“No, no, no! It is not a sin to be angry!”  
However...

...Jesus made a rather startling statement regarding anger. It is found in reference to the way the Jewish teachers had instructed the people concerning murder. Jesus emphasized the seriousness of anger toward another person:

**You have been taught that you will bear the judgment of the court for murder. I am telling you that you will bear the judgment of the court for your anger.**  
**(Paraphrase of Matthew 5:21-22)**

To ‘bear the judgment of the court’ meant that a person was accountable to the local court. In the day of Jesus the court was not in session to determine whether a person was guilty, but rather, to hand down a sentence because of guilt. So, Jesus told the people that anger should be dealt with in the same way as a convicted murderer.

Consider what it would mean if the statement of Jesus became a reality in our legal system today. If you were to become angry with your spouse or your parents; off to court to receive a sentence for your anger. If you did not get that promotion; a teenager cut you off in traffic; your in-laws made fun of you ; the car broke down...again; the preacher, the song leader, the elders did (or did not do) something . . . and you are mad: Off to court.

By nature anger devalues another person. It belittles them by justifying one’s own perceived superiority. Anger judges!

**In addition, everyone who calls his fellowman Raca will bear the judgment of the supreme court; and whoever says to his fellow man, “You Fool!” will bear the judgment of God.**

**(Paraphrase of Matthew 5:22)**

‘Raca’ was an Aramaic word meaning: *empty*. In our day it would be equivalent to calling someone *empty-headed* or *retarded*.

“Fool” comes from the Greek word ‘*moros*’ (the source of our English word ‘*moron*’). To call someone ‘*moros*’ was not mere silliness like ‘*moron*’ might be today. It was a humiliating reference that meant ‘*worthless*.’ It was an expression coming from an attitude that looked on another person as having no value as a human being. They could justifiably be treated like household garbage, *worthless*.

The attitude behind *anger* intentionally devalues a person. The same is true of calling someone “*Raca*” or “*you fool*.” Such an attitude is a slap in the face of God. By devaluing others it minimizes God’s sacrifice of his Son as something done in vain. Anger does not accomplish the will of God.

Mark Stinnett