

3. Find Joy in the Peace of Christ

Readings: Psalm 4 and Ephesians 4:15-5:2

A sixfold problem needs a sixfold solution

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Part 1

The problem

Ephesians 2:1-3 “...cravings...desires...thoughts”

Ephesians 4:17-19,22

“...thinking...understanding...ignorance...hardening of ...hearts...deceitful desires”

‘affections are in the soul as the helm in the ship’ (John Owen)

Affections are ‘the springs that set men a-going’ (Jonathan Edwards)

‘the affections are the soul’s horses that draw her as it were in a coach to the things that’ she desires (William Fenner)

The redirection

Ephesians 4:20,21,23,24 (and 1:13)

“...learned Christ...made new...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”

Colossians 3:10

“...have put on the new self,
which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator”

Part 2

Ephesians 4:15,16,25 “...the mature body...the whole body...members of one body”

Matthew 5:21-26 “...reconciled...”

Part 3

Ephesians 4:26 “ ‘In your anger do not sin’; do not let the sun go while you are still angry”

Psalm 4

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm of David.

¹ Answer me when I call to you,
my righteous God.

Give me relief from my distress;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

² How long will you people turn my glory into shame?
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods^[b]?^[c]

³ Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself;
the Lord hears when I call to him.

⁴ Tremble [Be angry] and do not sin;
when you are on your beds,
search your hearts and be silent.

⁵ Offer the sacrifices of the righteous
and trust in the LORD.

⁶ Many, LORD, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?”
Let the light of your face shine on us.

⁷ Fill my heart with joy
when their grain and new wine abound.

⁸ In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, LORD,
make me dwell in safety.

Numbers 20:12 “Because you did not trust in me enough...”

Part 4

The problem

Ephesians 4:27 “...and do not give the devil a foothold.”

Ephesians 6:10-20 “the devil’s schemes...”

Revelation 12:17 “Then the dragon was enraged...and went off to wage war...”

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

“...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”

The new power

Ephesians 1:13,14,17; 3:16,17

Ephesians 4:30,31

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger...”

Galatians 5:16-26 “...live by the Spirit...The fruit of the Spirit...”

Part 5

Ephesians 4:32 “...forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”

Matthew 18:21-35

“ten thousand talents... a hundred denarii...”

Part 6

Ephesians 5:1,2 “...live a life of love, just as Christ loved us...”

1 Corinthians 13:5 “love is...not easily angered...”

Ephesians 3:17-19 “...to grasp...the love of Christ...”

Conclusion: how Christ changes anger