



# The Voice of Truth



July 15, 2012

## The Tremendous Love Of Christ

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Love is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, elements that we experience in Christianity. Paul said, without love I am noise, I am nothing, and I profit nothing (**1 Corinthians 13:1 ff**). Love should be the motive by which we do all things. *"Let all your things be done with charity,"* (**1 Corinthians 16:14**). *"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness,"* (**Colossians 3:14**).

Love is the strongest word in the Bible, for we read, *"God is love,"* (**1 John 4:8**). This love motivated Jesus Christ to die for us! The tremendous love of Christ is shown throughout the Bible. *"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,"* (**Romans 5:8**). *Jesus Christ demonstrated the superior love, "Because he laid down his life for us,"* (**1 John 3:16**). We never knew the meaning of love until Jesus demonstrated it in His life. Jesus is our dearest friend. He was unselfish with others, the meaning of love. Paul said, *"Love seeketh not her own,"* (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**).

What made the love of Christ so tremendous? He just didn't walk around saying, I love you; He showed us love!

Love motivated Him to put His words into action. Jesus showed us love by keeping God's commandments; He contended for the word of God, and He sought the lost. He was a man of proper value.

We as God's children must follow the example of our Saviour and let love motivate us. Love is evidenced in keeping His commandments (**John 15:10**). The Lord does not ask His disciples to do that which He Himself does not do. As it was necessary for Him to keep the commandments of His Father to abide in the Father's love, so it is necessary for disciples to keep the Lord's commandments to abide in His love.

Jesus Christ showed His tremendous love by being a man of stern rebuke. He told the Sadducees, *"Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God,"* (**Matthew 22:29**). He showed again His tremendous love by trying to keep the word of God pure. Jesus knew to stand for the truth; it is equal to loving God. The love Jesus taught is the emblem or badge of disciple-ship. By this love one may know that he is His disciple. This love proves to others that we are disciples of Christ. This love should motivate us to do more for God! ♦

### Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member?  
The kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meeting and mingle with the flock?  
Or do you stay away to criticize and knock?  
Do you take an active part to help the work along?  
Or are you satisfied to only just belong?  
Think this over, my dear friends:  
I know you won't go wrong.  
Are you an active member, or do you  
just belong? ♦

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## “What Makes You Angry?”

By Jarrod Jacobs

Is there anything that makes you angry? Are there some things that really upset you from time to time? Certainly, being angry or upset happens to all of us. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to the Ephesians about anger. He said, “*Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger*” (Eph. 4:26). Being angry is not necessarily a sin. The very statement from **Ephesians 4:26** bears this out. Further, when we think of Jesus, and others, who got angry at times, we see that they were able to be angry and not be guilty of sin. At the same time, sin can occur when one is angry! In fact, it is often the case that one sins when angry, thus the warning from Ephesians 4! Whether or not one sins in anger is dependant upon what one does with the anger! Is anger released in constructive ways? Is “*the sun*” allowed to “*go down*” on anger, allowing it fester and grow until it is released in destructive ways (Col. 3:8)? Think about it!

This article will not focus on what we do with our anger, but rather upon what actually makes us angry in the first place. Does the preaching and teaching of God’s word make us angry? Does sin anger us? What about hypocrisy among so-called “Christians”? How does this make us feel? Does doctrinal error upset us, or are we more upset with those who expose error and expose the ones teaching the error (Eph. 5:11)? Let us consider these matters seriously. This subject is certainly nothing new, but we must still decide how we will deal with it!

In order to better understand what our attitude should be as Christians, and what ought and ought not anger us, let us look and see what made God and Christ angry. (I Pet. 2:21-22; I Jn. 2:6)

### God Was Made Angry

When listening to some folks’ preach, we might be left with the impression that God has never been angry with His creation. This is not true! God was made angry on several occasions. Note that His anger was roused when:

1. Moses tried to excuse himself from doing the will of God (Ex. 4:14).
2. Israel committed whoredoms and “*joined ... to Baalpeor*” (Num. 25:1-9; Deut. 7:4).
3. Achan kept the goods from Jericho that should have

been destroyed when Israel conquered that city (Josh. 7).

4. Uzzah touched the Ark of the Covenant after the oxen stumbled (II Sam. 6:7).

These and other examples make it clear that God has been angry with creation. Yet, notice the cause of His anger. God was angry over man’s sin.

### Christ Was Made Angry

At the same time, we find occasions when Christ became angry. While He walked upon this earth, Christ was made angry when:

1. He saw those in the synagogue with hardened hearts (Mk. 3:1-5).
2. He saw the Temple being used by men for Scripturally unauthorized actions (Jn. 2:13-17; Matt. 21:10-13).

Other examples could be shown, but is it not obvious that the anger of God and Christ is “kindled” against those who do not do His will? God is angered when He sees people who refuse to obey Him, and practice unauthorized things!! God is angered when people rebel against His word (I Sam. 15:23).

### What Makes You Angry?

Friends, when we know of people living in rebellion to God’s word; when we see people openly defying the will of God; these folks should anger us, too! Unfortunately, we find some today who become angry, but for the wrong reasons. Like the silversmiths of **Acts 19**, some among us become angry when the gospel is preached. Some, like Jonah or Naaman, become angry when they realize God’s will is not their will (II Kings 5:11; Jonah 4:1, 4, 8-9). They become angry because they do not want to change!

Therefore, what angers you? Does an article like this anger you? Perhaps you need to change your attitude!! If what angers you is the opposite of what angers God, I know a change of attitude is needed! In all things, let us strive to be like our Father in Heaven (Matt. 5:48; I Pet. 1:15-16). This INCLUDES making sure that the things that anger God, anger us as well. Now, what makes you angry???

*Credit: The Old Paths - June 10, 2012 ♦*

*Either the Bible will keep you from sin . . .  
Or sin will keep you from the Bible.*

## Anger ... Or Insanity?

By Jonathan L. Perz

Are you known to have a bad temper? Do those who know you best tend to walk on eggshells around you because of your known propensity for a short fuse? Is it not altogether uncommon for you to blow your top?

Anger is a major issue in the lives of many who profess Christianity. Some deal with silent, but deadly, kinds of anger issues. Others are known to wear their anger on their shirtsleeves. Some grow angry when things don't go the way they would like them to go and stay angry for an extended period of time. Some are known for short, but outrageous, outbursts.

Regardless of the way anger is demonstrated in your life, does a propensity for anger manifest the soundness of mind that Christians are called on to exhibit in their daily lives (**2 Tim. 1:7**)?

There are many spiritual issues directly linked to anger. Yet, one of the most prominent, but overlooked, is the instability that comes with one who does not know how to rule his spirit (**Prov. 16:32**). This instability seeps over into many avenues of one's life, but becomes intensely obvious when one becomes angry.

One of the strongest manifestations of this in Scripture is seen with King Saul. One specific event set him off and he never fully recovered. His life was marked by some of the most erratic, or insane, behavior in all of Scripture and it all boiled down to anger.

It began when they returned from the battle where the young man, David, slew the Philistine giant, Goliath. Upon their arrival home, David was lauded for killing his ten thousands, while King Saul was praised for killing his thousands. The account says, *"Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him . . . So Saul eyed David from that day forward"* (**1 Sam. 16:6-9**). From that point on, Saul's behavior went from bad to worse. Observe some of the following events, all surrounding Saul's anger toward David...

- Saul cast a spear at David to pin him to a wall as David played music for Saul – **1 Sam. 18:11**
- He was afraid of David – **1 Sam. 18:12**
- He said he would give his daughter Merab to David as a wife, but then gave her to another man instead – **1 Sam. 18:17-19**
- He then gave David another daughter, Michal, who

loved David—but he gave her with a wicked motive – **1 Sam. 18:20-21**

- He tried to have David killed by tricking him into earning the hand of Michal, his daughter – **1 Sam. 18:25**
- Had a peaceful period with David at the request of his son Jonathan – **1 Sam. 19:4-8**
- Tried to pin David to a wall again with a spear as David played music for him – **1 Sam. 19:9-10**
- Sent messengers to kill David, who was ironically saved by Michal, who was given to David – **1 Sam. 19:11**
- Saul sent messengers on several other occasions!
- Saul tried to kill his own son Jonathan because Jonathan loved David – **1 Sam. 20:27-33**

He even had eighty five priests of God murdered for helping David – **1 Sam. 22:6-19**

And this is the short list (you are encouraged to read all of **1 Samuel 16-22**). His behavior had highs and lows. His judgment was blinded by his anger. He did things no reasonable man would do. His anger controlled him. He hurt others to get at the object of his anger. He tried to use everyone and anyone in the exercise of his anger. He tried to commit murder on more than one occasion. He spent the rest of his life pursuing David. He truly became insane in his anger.

Does this describe you at times? Does your anger get the best of you, causing you to do things you later regret? When angry, do you act more like an insane man than one in your right mind? Are you living with anger and malice in your heart right now?

If there was ever a man who had a right to be angry with His fellow man, it was, and is, Jesus Christ. Yet, did He manifest anger when He died for our sins? Did he revile and threaten when He bore our sins in His own body on a tree (**1 Pet. 2:21-25**)? Not at all. As a matter of fact, Jesus sought God's forgiveness for the very men who nailed Him to that cross (**Luke 23:34**)?

In light of such an example, what is it that we have dealt with that could possibly justify not only getting, but staying, angry? If you are living with anger, turn it over to God and let Him handle it (**Rom. 12:19**)! He will judge righteously and set all wrongs right in His own due time. If you are known for a short fuse, don't try to hide the fuse, remove it. Is whatever it is that sets you off worth losing your soul over? If you believe that you were just born with

Continued from Page Three, "Anger ... Or Insanity?"

a bad temper, and can't help yourself, you are deceiving yourself (**1 John 1:8-9**). King Saul traveled down a dark road, not because he was born with anger issues, but because he chose that road! Anger is a choice! At that critical moment of temptation, when your blood is starting to boil, deliberately and purposefully choose not to be angry. With the strength of the Lord, you can do it (**Phil. 4:13**)!

Have you ever wondered why some who commit murder can get a lesser sentence by pleading temporary insanity? Anger, in so many ways, is a form of temporary insanity. So many sins—life changing sins—have been committed while angry. Don't let anger ruin your life. Master your anger, don't let your anger master you!

Credit: [www.moodychurchofchrist.com](http://www.moodychurchofchrist.com) ♦

### The church of Christ

**Has:**

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (**Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11**)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (**Acts 20:28**)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 5:23**)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (**Eph. 5:23**)

**IS:**

- The spiritual body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23**)
- The kingdom of Christ (**Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28**)
- The depository of those saved (**Acts 2:47**)
- One body, not many bodies (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believe that Christ is the Son of God (**Jno. 8:24**)
- One must repent of sins (**Lk. 13:3**)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (**Rom. 10:9-10**)
- One must be baptized into Christ (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**) ♦

*Don't think you can ignore the Lord in this life and He will give you a crown in the Life to come.*

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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**Schedule of Assembly**

**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month