

Next Week: Correcting others for their own good.

New printer: it's a good printer, does what it needs to do, good clean copies, it keeps track of who's printing what so we don't waste paper. And we can budget well.

1. it defaults to black and white.

Default settings are the values or options that are automatically assigned by a computer system or program. To be changed requires an intentional action on the part of the user

2. normally, I only require black and white, but I like on my sermon notes to delineate scripture in a different color, among other things it helps my eyes from having to remain locked on the page.
3. So I have to override the default settings and intentionally select color when I'm ready to print.
4. And inevitably, I am made aware of this when it's Sunday morning and I'm already a little stressed on time.
5. That's the copier – we hold in our hands something that also comes with default settings, our phones
6. But as Shawn reminded me – when he upgraded his phone, sometimes, **old defaults can transfer to NEW devices.**

We are NEW CREATIONS in Christ, but you may have noticed that there are a few old defaults that might still be lurking there in the background. You've got some old defaults and **If you've noticed, the world seems to have a major default setting these days:**

**Today we are talking about our tendency to default to being offended and angry:**

**You might get offended and angry – if so that's a sign the sermon was good. So tell me if it happens.**

**PRAY**

We are easily offended:

1. We provide safe spaces so we don't hear something offensive

2. We get morally offended. Last week, the 31<sup>st</sup>, a lot of people got in a huff about Easter sharing a date on the calendar with trans awareness day.

Those are just a few:

Our media is maintained and monetized by outrage:

News stations get and keep viewers (and advertiser) by keeping us offended and abgry about something.

Our politics is is maintained and monetized by outrage: Politicians run and get elected on keeping us offended and outraged.

Even churches can be guilty – implying that it is our moral duty to be outraged over something that has offended our delicate religious sensibilities.

And 90% is manufactured. 99.9 percent of us would have remained completely unaware that last Sunday was also trans-awareness day – unless someone somewhere decided it had outrage potential and could get people to click on an article or repost a post and we should be outraged by it and make it a deal.

And it worked!

And then just as quickly we move on – to the next offense and the next outrage

It's not just sad, its not just unhealthy – it affects our witness to a world that is looking for something different – a world that needs peace, that the world cannot give and the world cannot take away.

And when we engage with the outrage and offended culture and become part of its machinery , we offer nothing different.

The witness of Jesus is lost, as we malign and belittle those who disagree with us. even as we claim to defend the faith and culture from infidels.

Does Jesus have anything to say to all of this?

### **Matthew 5:21-22**

**21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.**

The fire of hell?!?

God is serious about this kind of stuff!

Why?

Because when we are angry we are easily manipulated by Satan.

***Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV***

***26 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.***

Our eagerness to be easily offended, our attachment to anger plays directly in Satan's hands.

Im convinced the devil doesn't care that much about YOU or society

But he cares a lot about destroying Jesus.

He lives it when we speak and act out of anger because it damages the message of the gospel.

So what do we do?

It takes intentionality – like my copier default - we must be aware of it and respond intentionally:

The Bible gives us some starting points for this:

**1. Be slow to anger**

**My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.**

## **JAMES 1:19-20**

Being slow to get angry means that We give ourselves time to build to anger. We don't knee-jerk to anger, we process it through some filters and decide if its worth it to get angry.

*Wednesday night, I had a car full of boys in the back seat of my car. As I mentally mapped out my route to get them to their various destinations, I had to quickly alter my route which startled my back seat passengers and someone in the car made a smart alecky comment that called into question my decision making process and my driving ability.*

*I don't like my competency questioned. I immediately slammed on the brakes which created a sense of shock and awe in the back seat – momentarily very gratifying,*

*But then almost immediately embarrassing, because in my rearview mirror I saw the car behind me suddenly brake. I had almost caused an accident – which would have justified their concerns about my driving ability and decision-making ability.*

## **Proverbs 14:29:**

**He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly.**

In my rush to anger, I only exalted folly.

You can probably think of example of your own, where your own rush to be offended and get angry simply made the situation worse and exposed your own silliness and stupidity

Being slow to anger means

1. I recognize my triggers: I don't like my expertise is questioned.
2. I understand relative value: I understand how silly caring about what some preteens think about my driving.

I am AWARE of my temptation to get quickly offended. And I recognize how silly it is quickly enough that I can chose another path.

Be slowing to anger means knowing what angers you and learn to recognize it early.

**“Instead of letting anger control us, we must control our anger.”**

## **2. Don't Indulge It:**

After I made a fool of myself in the car, I recognized that I actually could use this opportunity to express WHY I responded the way I did. I spoke firmly

*“Thank you for your insight, but I don’t need your assistance with my driving.”*

*(A little man, you are not in charge, I’m in charge, keep your thoughts to yourself.”*

And then, I let it go.

Im not bragging, I’m merely patting myself on the back, because I often DO simmer in it.

**Ephesians 4:26,**

**“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath.”**

Too often, we get angry, we sin - usually with our words – we say something we regret,

*“Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret.”*

*I got the opportunity to say I was sorry. Apologizing is a great way to train yourself to be slow to anger.*

But too often instead of simply saying sorry and moving on, we soak on it and in it for days! Some of you are still able to dredge up an offense from years ago!

This is not how God intends it.

Offense happen and Anger results. But we don’t live there, pack up and move on. Quickly.

Don’t nourish it and don’t coddle it. Don’t indulge it.

Keep a very short account of wrongs.

**Instead of letting anger to control us, it is us who should control our anger.**

### **3. Surrender your anger to God**

We are surrounded by people who are learning from us what this new life Jesus promised actually looks like.

They don’t give a flying flip about your preaching

They are watching your actions.

If you are easily offended, if you are easily angered, they only see someone who isn’t who they claim they want to be.

If you have trouble controlling your emotions – if you find yourself easily frustrated, easily manipulated by people and circumstances, Then your ability to be a Christ-led influencer is compromised.

**Refrain from anger and turn from  
wrath; do not fret—it leads only to  
evil. For those who are evil will be  
destroyed, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.  
PSALM 37:8-9**

So much of our anger is really misplaced fear.

We are afraid we won't be respected.

We are afraid for our country

We are afraid for our family

And because fear looks weak, we trade it for anger.

But can I just remind you.

God is still God –

**Those things that annoy us are very often his tools to mature us.**

**Those things that scare us, are the very things that bring us closer under his wings.**

God will take care of the wrong; you don't have to fret about it.

Instead, surrender those things to God and trust him with them.

### **Righteous Anger**

We'll talk in a few weeks about righteous anger, what is and what it isn't and how to process it in a God-honoring way.

But I'm guessing most of us here wrestle with the very ordinary but dangerous non-righteous anger.

The kind of anger that even if it doesn't lead to hell, can lead us to a hellish life if we don't get intentional about bringing it under the authority and care of Jesus.

But Jesus came that we might live with peace

***Isaiah 26:3***

***You keep him in perfect peace***

***whose mind is stayed on you,***

***because he trusts in you.***

***John 14:27***

***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.***

***Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.***

God has not given you a spirit of fear, he calls us out of a spirit of anger, he models how to live a life that does not easily take offense.

In the next couple of weeks we will talk about dealing with difficult people

And how to remain unoffendable in an offensive world.

But today I want to leave you with this:

Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Whatever is in our hearts tends to show up on our lips:

So Paul exhorts us:

***Ephesians 4:29 ESV***

***Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.***

our gracious words are often someone's first introduction to Jesus.

## **COMMUNION**

This morning, your words may have driven someone away from Jesus instead of closer.

The bible is clear – do your very best to make that right.

Maybe even before you take communion today.

Communion is about God reconciliation with us

We were enemies and offenders worthy of God's righteous anger,

But instead, God loved us and made a way through Jesus, for us to be reconciled back to him.

I'm going to challenge you guys to be brutally honest with yourself. Is there a situation or a relationship that you need to make right? Take care of it. If not before communion, at least before the sun sets tonight.

Because holding on to offenses and anger displease God who desires that we experience and live in his peace.

## **PRAY**

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight,  
O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer.**

Jesus endured offense after offense and love laid down his life for us.

His wounds are life to us, his stripes brought us peace.

The cross points us to another way to live.

Crucified with Christ, no longer our lives, but his life in us.

Lord, the world around us defaults to anger, but we are people of another way. Draw us by your spirit away from that attitude and make our attitude that of Jesus. Who loved us even when we were enemies of God and offered his body and blood so that we might know his eternal life and peace.