

Dealing With Residual Anger



Finding out that the institution formerly known as “church” has taken you for a ride can make even the most even tempered Christian among us ready to fight! **I can tell you from experience that it’s OK to be ticked off about being lied to, but it is NOT OK TO SIN.** I pray that this blog will help my brothers and sisters in the Lord find some comfort, not taking your frustrations with the institution and its

practices out on the sheep who attend them and may not understand just yet where we are coming from.

First and foremost, please know that you are NOT alone. People are coming out of the institutional church in droves discovering the same truths about the systematic lies they have been taught there. They are awaking from their slumber like a man in a chemically induced coma. We all have tasted the tainted spiritual milk served up weekly from their local pulpits, and are now suffering from withdrawal symptoms. One of those residual effects of coming out of the false institutional church system is **ANGER.**

On top of that, you have to hear people hurl false accusations at you, saying you are out of the will of God for not attending an institution weekly, or even worse that **you have left the very body of Christ for the world.** The more insensitive around you are telling you to **“Just get over it!”** or just labeling you as someone who is experiencing **“church hurt** “or simply disgruntled, as an excuse to ignore your legitimate concerns.

After all, “going” to church is what we were taught to do right? **Everybody** can’t be wrong about this? There is biblical precedent to gathering locally isn’t there? Sure there is, **however,** the institution told you many **LIES** which by the grace of God are slowly unraveling.

You may have found out that the bible never mandates New Testament Believers to Tithe a Malachi 3 SEEMS to be saying (but wasn’t). Oh the frustration you must feel forking over possibly THOUSANDS of dollars to this institution when you could have been helping the poor or supporting a missionary instead. Or the fact that “the church” isn’t a place you GO but it is

who you ARE as a lively stone in Christ. Sure many pay lip service to this fact in the institution, but in actions deny it by calling a building “the church.” Your wife’s devotion to her pastor instead of you as her husband may have even cost you your marriage, because of the preeminence the institutional churches put on a single pastor as the one and only devoted leader of the flock. How many times were you guilt tripped into keeping perfect attendance weekly in an institution by a religious leader based on Hebrews 10:25? Not to mention the word of God never supported the many false teachings which have come from the ranks of the institution, such as spiritual covering doctrines, the word-faith movement, the apostolic reformation, false church authority and the like.

So now you are TICKED OFF at the mention of an institutional church... you may even lash out at brothers and sisters who have the unmitigated gall to even talk about “going” to church or any of the false doctrines which come from it. Now I am not saying that we are not to reprove and expose these unfruitful works of darkness but the facts are that whether we are in an institution or not, we are called to LOVE our neighbors and love our brothers and sisters in Christ. We cannot take our frustrations out on them, however tempting it may be.

Jesus told us clearly in his word that we will know his people by the love they have for one another. I’m big on this, because no one will hear anything I say on this blog or otherwise unless **LOVE** is the underlying motive and goal.... and not the sappy love of the world which tolerates sin, but biblical love which shows genuine concern for people. This is an admonishment for me too.

Although this is a topic specific blog about the institution, there are other very pressing issues in the body of Christ, and honestly this and other issues have the potentiality of becoming “denominational” and “divisive” and I don’t want my views on the institution becoming a “pet doctrine” and a means to divide from other brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. It seems all too often that people who view the ekklesia as I do now are often ostracized by many of those who choose not to understand where us “church leavers” are coming from, but we cannot control that. We can control what we do and how we respond to that falsehood.

Dear reader, put yourself in the shoes of your typical church goer. Before you knew what you know now, wouldn’t you have defended your local institutional church, pastor and leaders to the ends of the Earth from this sort of perceived attack to their very core values and beliefs? Realize that many of these traditional teachings have been taught week after week and

reinforced, and any departure from those teachings (many of which are the traditions of men) is beyond radical for many. Many simply cannot handle what we are saying all at once.

Not only were we part of the Matrix, we were also taught to defend it.

Have compassion for the body, and please do not make this an issue of division and strife amongst the people of God or any congregation, for you will just be proving their accusations that you are just a “troublemaker” or a “sower of discord” amongst the brethren to be true. Naturally we want them to agree with us, but only God gives the increase after we plant, and water a seed.

So in conclusion meditate on the following words from the Lord. While some anger is indeed righteous, most of our anger comes from the flesh, and if not dealt with in a godly manner, can lead to sin. Let’s use the wisdom and knowledge that the Lord gave us to His glory. Once anger has subsided one may look into the possibility of forgiveness. The institution and its supporters (some of whom are your brothers and sisters in Christ) isn’t going anywhere any time soon, and neither are those who have issues with it... like ME.

- Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. (**Psalm 37:8**).
- The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult. (**Proverbs 12:16**).
- There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (**Proverbs 12:18**).
- One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless. (**Proverbs 14:16**)
- A man of quick temper acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated. (**Proverbs 14:17**).
- A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly (**Proverbs 14:29**).
- A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (**Proverbs 15:1**).
- A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel (**Proverbs 15:18**).
- Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city (**Proverbs 16:32**).
- A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered (**Proverbs 17:27**).
- It is to a man’s honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel (**Proverbs 20:3**).

- Do not say, “I’ll pay you back for this wrong!” Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you (**Proverbs 20:22**).
- Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control (**Proverbs 25:28**).
- Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger (**Proverbs 29:8**).
- A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control (**Proverbs 29:11**).
- An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins (**Proverbs 29:22**).
- You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.” But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment ... first go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift (**Matthew 5:21-24**).
- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (**Romans 12:21**).
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs (**1 Corinthians 13:4-5**).
- The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions (**Galatians 5:19-20**).
- “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold (**Ephesians 4:26-7**).
- Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 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, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you (**Ephesians 4:29-32**).
- Let your gentleness be evident to all (**Philippians 4:5**).
- But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips (**Colossians 3:8**).
- And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful (**2 Timothy 2:24**).
- My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires (**James 1:19-20**).

- Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing (**1 Peter 3:9**).

This is just a starting point, please let these words lead you into further study. Be blessed by the hearing.

<http://setfreefromtheic.wordpress.com/2010/04/27/dealing-with-the-residual-anger-from-the-ic/#more-74>