

Psalm 4:4

Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah

Did you know it's ok to get angry?

Ok here are a couple of no-duh questions as well.

- *Did you know it's ok to eat?*
- *Did you know it's ok to have sex?*
- *Did you know it's ok to learn how to write?*

Now, I know those sound like stupid questions, but the answer is the same for these questions as it is for my first question: “*Did you know it's ok to get angry?*” We tend to forget that God has given us emotions and desires, which are good, if used the way He intended them to be used.

Eating, yeah God gave us hunger so we would remember to eat, so our bodies wouldn't die. But you can take that same hunger and use it to overeat or eat bad things so that your body can actually get sick or even die because of overeating or eating the wrong things.

What about sex? Yep, God invented sex and it's His gift to men and women to be used when they are married to one another. But you can take that same desire and use it to have sex outside of marriage, or have sex with someone of the same gender, or even to be married and have sex with someone who is not your spouse.

Writing, what's with that one? I've used this example before, and I think it applies here as well. I can take a pen and piece of paper and write a beautiful song or poem for the Lord. I can also write one for my wife. But I can also take that same piece of paper and write a note on it to rob a bank or write in it lies and derogatory things about someone else and pass it around for all to read.

Finally, anger. What causes anger? If you think about it, it's caused when someone does something against you or someone else that is wrong or causes harm. It's not the anger that's sin, just like a thought is not a sin. In both cases, it's what you do with it.

Let's use Jesus' example when He got angry:

✠ **John 2:13-16** *Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers'*

money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

If you don't read this correctly, you would think that Jesus flew off the handle and started cleaning house. But that's not what it says. The key is: "**When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple.**" Now, I don't know how long it would take to make a *whip of cords*, But I would think it would be long enough for Jesus to seek the Father (God) in what He was about to do. Jesus wasn't pulling any punches here either. He let them have it. But not because He thought it was wrong, but because God said it was wrong.

Luke adds to this story what Jesus said:

† **Luke 19:46** *saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "*

I wonder if Jesus' half-brother, James, learned this from Jesus, because he wrote.

† **James 1:19-20** *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

Maybe you are trying to justify what you are doing as being okay based upon your God given emotions and desires. Yes, God gave you those emotions and desires, but are you using them as He intended and according to His word, or are you using them for your own ungodly pleasure or revenge?

† **Judges 21:25** *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

† **Psalm 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*

† **Psalm 119:73 (NLT2)** *You made me; you created me. Now give me the sense to follow your commands.*