

OUR AGE OF RAGE

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There is a lot of concern these days about the increasing incidents of rage – road rage, airplane rage, workplace rage, and brutal outbursts at school, sporting events, and other public places. Those who feel wronged or offended also feel justified in taking to the streets in anger, burning and looting everything in sight. Once at a fast-food restaurant, I witnessed the screaming and cursing between two female employees that ended up with both of them outside fighting. These moments of rage can often end up with jail time or a funeral. Christians must never be involved in instigating or encouraging such incidents. The Bible teaches us to learn self-control, meekness, and quietness (2 Pet. 1:6; Jas. 3:13; 1 Pet. 3:4). These godly traits help an individual control his emotions and words.

The Christian is not to embody the wrath and anger that will cause moments of rage. *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”* (Jas. 1:19). *“Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil”* (Eph. 4:26-27). *“A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention”* (Prov. 15:18). *“Make no friends with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul”* (Prov. 22:24). We need to stay calm and under control on the roadways, at work, at school, at the ball game, etc. Shouting, hand gestures, facial expressions, and other ugly actions should be avoided.

The Christian can help in calming an explosive situation. *“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger”* (Prov. 15:1). We can diffuse an angry situation by calming tempers with soft words or taking the blame for a mistake that we made. A Christian will even endure being wronged if it will prevent even worse problems developing (Rom. 12:17-19; 1 Cor. 6:7). May we never instigate or contribute to the angry rage that is in our world. *“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”* (Rom. 12:18).