

The Challenge of Synonyms

- When Scripture uses two different words to describe the same basic emotion we call them synonyms.
- Sometimes there is very little difference. Other times the difference opens a new vista for us.
- Word definitions alone don't always show this difference. It is their use in Scripture that reveals it.
- Love - Divine (*agape*) Love - Human (*phileo*)
- Anger (*thumos*) wrath (*orge*)
- Patience (*hupomeno*) Longsuffering (*makrothumeo*)
- How the Holy Spirit chose to use these words in Scripture reveals the difference far more clearly

Synonyms of Anger & Wrath

- *Be angry, and do not sin do not let the sun go down on your wrath, Eph. 4:26-27*
- There is an important progression here. that we can't see We all know that anger leads to sin.
- “*thumos... 1. **passion, angry heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again,***
- “*orge,...(fr orgao to teem, denoting **an internal motion**, esp that of **plants and fruits swelling with juice**... anger. ... ” (Thayer, p. 452; 3709)*
- It is difficult to see much difference here.

Synonyms of Anger & Wrath

- *thumos* indicates a *more agitated condition of the feelings, an outburst of wrath from inward indignation,*
- *orge* suggests *a more settled, abiding condition of mind,* frequently with a view to taking revenge.
- *orge* is less sudden in its rise than *thumos*, but more lasting in its nature. (Trench NT Synonyms)
- Once again, the difference is difficult to identify.
- It is clear that only time will reveal whether it is anger (*thumos*) or wrath (*orge*).

Anger & Wrath

- Can begin with the same provocation.
- Follow the same path for a few days.
- We see in their use some similarities. It is interesting that anger and wrath are both used for *orge* in 26 yet in verse 31, wrath is *thumos* and anger is *orge*
- ***Be angry (orgizo)***, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your ***wrath (par-orgismos)***, 27 nor give place to the devil. 31 Let all bitterness, ***wrath (thumos)***, ***anger (orge)***, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Eph. 4:26-27; 31
- It is obvious from this passage that there are many similarities between these two terms in their initial formation and development.

orge - God's Wrath

- For ***the wrath (orge) of God*** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, Rom. 1:18-19
- But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are ***treasuring* up for yourself wrath (orge) in the day of wrath (orge) and revelation of the righteous judgment of God*** Rom. 2:5
- * God's wrath builds over time with each new provocation ... we can treasure it up (add more and more of it) if we so choose.

orge - God's Wrath

- *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things **the wrath (orge) of God** comes upon the sons of disobedience. Eph. 5:6-7*
- *11 So **I swore in My wrath (orge)**, 'They shall not enter My rest.' ” Heb. 3:10*
- *O generation of vipers, who warned you to flee **from the wrath (orge), to come?** Mt. 3:7*
- *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but **the wrath (orge), of God abides on him.**" Jn. 3:36*
- *God's wrath is settled and abiding...*

Man's Wrath is Dangerous

- *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, **slow to wrath (orge)**, 20 for **the wrath (orge) of man does not produce the righteousness of God.** Jas 1:20*
- While both anger (thumos) and wrath (orge) are the same in their beginnings, once the sun goes down on that wrath, it becomes dangerous because man doesn't have the ability to work under it.
- It strays into hatred, vengeance, contempt and even murder.

Our Wrath and Anger Forbidden

- *You have heard that it was said to them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 but I say unto you, that every one who is **angry (orge) with his brother** shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of the hell of fire. Mt 5:21-22*
- Only God knows how to deal with wrath (*orge*) we have it because we are in his image and likeness, but it is very dangerous.
- We can have it without sin if ...

When Anger becomes Murder

- Anger with a brother: the moment the sin of murder is imputed and needed repentance,
- Paul showed the emotion itself is not sinful:
- *Be angry, and do not sin: let not the sun go down on your wrath, Eph 4:26*
- Jesus “says” the precise moment of guilt occurs when we allow anger to focus on our fellow man. It is being “*angry with his brother*” that leads to murder.
- We can “*be angry and not sin,*” but we can also “*be angry*” and “*in danger.*”

Cain was Angry and in Danger

- *but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And **Cain was very angry**, and his countenance fell. 6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." 8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Gen 4:5-8*
- Once Cain allowed his anger to focus on his brother, sin took over and so did murder.

Why Cain killed his Brother

- *In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 1 John 3:10-12*

The “Tipping Point” into Sin

- What is the line and tipping point?
- When anger is not lawful but sinful?
- Answer: *with a brother*
- Anger at sin, evil, wickedness or error is lawful.
- Dangerous, needing to be monitored but lawful
- Jesus commanded: don't be “*angry with a brother.*”
- We can't be as merciful, patient, forbearing and forgiving once we are under the influence of either anger or wrath.

Next Step: “*Raka*” & “*Moros*”

- Contempt: Not for the event but the brother
- “*raka...empty, i.e. a senseless, empty-headed man, a term of reproach used in the time of Christ...*” (Thayer, p 561; 4469)
- “*raka ... is a transcription of the Aramaic insult ... raka as a call to servants: “Hi there, you idiot!” ... It expresses vexed disparagement which may be accompanied by displeasure, anger, or contempt, and which is usually addressed to a foolish, thoughtless, or presumptuous person. The insult was regarded as harmless: “blockhead,” “donkey.”* (TDWNT; 4469)

Wrath/Anger Leads to Avenging

- *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath(orge); for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Rom 12:19-21*
- Vexed and Tormented at sin – not the sinner

“*Raka*” and “*Moros*”

- “*moros*... denotes dull, sluggish (from a root *much*, to be silly); hence, stupid, foolish... morally worthless, a scoundrel... more serious... Than
- “*raka*”; scorns the mind and calls him stupid;
- *moros* scorns his heart and character;...: (Vine Vol. 2 p 114)

Helpful Verses

- *Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Ps. 4:4*
- *An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression. Pr. 29:22*
- *Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools. Eccl. 7:9*
- *He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly. Pr. 14:29*
- *A wrathful man stirs up strife, But he who is slow to anger allays contention. Pr. 15:18*
- *He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. Pr. 16:32*

Anger, Wrath & Missed Opportunities

- *Angry Words! O let them never*
- *From the tongue unbridled slip*
- *May the heart's best impulse ever*
- *Check them err they soil the lip.*
- *Love is much too pure and holy*
- *Friendship is too sacred far*
- *For a moments reckless folly*
- *Thus to Desolate and Mar*
- *Angry words are lightly spoken*
- *Bittr'est Tho'ts are rashly stirred*
- *Brightest links of life are broken*
- *By a single angry word.*

Waiting for the Lord

- *7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret — it only causes harm. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth. Ps 37:7-9*

A Sin to be Put Off

- *5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ... 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger(orge), wrath(thumos), malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Col 3:5, 8*