**Series OVERVIEW**

It seems anger is in the air...the whole world’s gone mad! In this series will look at 3 places we direct our anger and how grace can help us release that anger and find peace with God and other people.

We might consider a 3C angle to each week of this series and each week addresses the shadow side of the 3Cs.

During this series, we’ll primarily rely on Paul’s letters to the churches and draw from his words wisdom to help us navigate the anger we feel.

**Static Docent Requests:**

Commentary on key passages.

Pertinent brain/social science insight.

Intro/hook ideas that correspond with Big Idea.

Relevant quotes that correspond with Big Idea.

Illustrations/metaphors that correspond with the Big Idea.

**WEEK 1 | JULY 7, 2019 | MAD AT ME**

**Scripture:** Romans 3:21-25a (NLT), 2 Corinthians 7:10-11, Ephesians 1:3-6 (NLT), 2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT), Romans 8:28 (NLT),

**Message Big Idea**

God heals our internal conflict when we embrace grace.

21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. 22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. -Romans 3:21-25a NLT

10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 11 See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. -2 Corinthians 7:10-11

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. -Ephesians 1:3-6 NLT

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! -2 Corinthians 5:17

12 I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. -Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)

28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. -Romans 8:28 (NLT)

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. -2 Corinthians 3:17-18

**Message Description:**

In week 1 of this series, we’ll address how many of us are angry at ourselves for our failures. We’ll deal with two kinds of failure…

“DONE” - When we did something wrong (sin).

“NOT DONE” - When we didn’t do something right.

We can feel this sense of failure in many different areas of our lives: relationships, finances, health, career, spiritual journey. Some of us have spent months, years, and even decades beating ourselves up over this stuff. How can we move past our failures?

At some point as a pastoral aside, we’ll also want to address how some of us are angry at ourselves over stuff that was done to us.

Drawing from Paul’s letters, we’ll focus this talk on Three Realities that can help us get past our past:

Reality #1 - Your biggest sins are not too big for God’s grace. (Romans 3:21-25a, 2 Corinthians 7:10)

Reality #2 - You are not what you’ve done; you are who God says you are. (Ephesians 1:3-6, 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Reality #3 - You can’t change your past, but Christ can change your future. (Philippians 3:12-14, Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

The challenge in this message is to EMBRACE GRACE. To take hold of the forgiveness, identity, and new start God offers to each one of us.

3C shadow side: We will likely always struggle with anger in the areas of CONNECT (the church) and CONTRIBUTE (the world) until we get right in the area of CELEBRATE (God).

COMMUNITY resources for this message:

Getting Past You Past Failures message

Loving Your Regrets message

I Am God’s Masterpiece message

Docent Requests:

Humorous examples of inner turmoil.

Barriers to fully receiving/embracing grace.

Key insights from previous COMMUNITY messages.

**WEEK 2 | JULY 14, 2019 | MAD AT US**

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:8-15, Ephesians 4:1-5, Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-20, Ephesians 4:15-16

**Message Big Idea**

God matures us as a church community when we extend grace.

8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. -Colossians 3:8-15

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. -Ephesians 4:1-5

15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. -Ephesians 4:15-16

**Message Description**

If you stick around the church long enough, chances are you’re going to get mad. Anytime you put a group of people together, the opportunity for conflict is, well, inevitable. It’s pretty easy to get mad at “us.”

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul urges Christ-followers to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (4:3). Unity should be important to us because it’s important to God. In fact, as Jesus prayed for us the night before he was arrested and crucified, his prayer was that we would be brought to complete unity (John 17:20-23). Unity is God’s dream for his church because our unity provides a powerful message of love to the watching world.

In this message, we’ll want to define “unity.” What is it? What is it not?

Perhaps there is no more obvious tactic the evil one takes than to stir us up to get angry with one another. The evil one loves division in the church because it destroys God’s dream of unity.

The instructions Paul gives the church in Colossians 3:8-15 are intended to help us grow into the kind of unity God desires. We’ll plan to focus the talk on this passage of Scripture and what it looks like to “rid ourselves” of the things that destroy unity and instead “clothe ourselves” with the things that grow unity. Paul concludes this sections by urging us to “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” “Rule” in this passage is the word for “umpire” as if to say, “Let the peace of Christ call the shots in your life, in every circumstance, even when it may not appear peaceful to you.”

***Some other texts we may consider in this message:***

Matthew 5:23-24 - If you remember a brother or sister in Christ has something against you, go to them to work it out.

Matthew 18:15-20 - If a brother or sister in Christ has wronged you, go to them to work it out.

Ephesians 4:15-16 - Speaking the truth in love to one another is necessary for us to mature as the body of Christ.

The challenge in this message is to EXTEND GRACE. To grow from being a recipient of grace to extending it to one another.

3C shadow side: We will never live out God’s dream for us to CONNECT with one another if we allow our anger to destroy our relationships with one another.

Docent Requests:

Definitions of unity.

Quotes describing what it is and what it is not.

Examples of dumb stuff church people fight over (true stories).

**WEEK 3 | JULY 21, 2019 | MAD AT THEM**

**Scripture**: Colossians 4:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Philippians 2:14-16

**Message Big Idea**

God restores his dream for the world when we embody grace.

5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. -Colossians 4:5-6

17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. -2 Corinthians 5:17-21

14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. -Philippians 2:14-16

**Message Description:**

Everywhere you turn, people are outraged. How do we navigate our angry culture?

Too often as Christ-followers, we’ve just joined in on the arguments. We’ve complained and posted and retweeted our way right into the middle of the fray, often isolating ourselves in our own echo chambers and alienating those on the other side.

Maybe it’s time to take a step back and think about what it means to be a follower of Jesus in this age of outrage?

Paul urges us to “be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity” (Colossians 4:5-6). He urges us to fill our conversations with grace. He understood that as Christ-followers, we have an opportunity to model something different than the dominant narrative of our culture.

Author Ed Stetzer adds: "I don't know that Christians can solve all the outrage issues. I think the culture has just turned up the volume to eleven and it's just going all-in on the outrage. So what I would say is we need to show a counter-culture message.The Gospel’s always been counter-cultural. It's always shown a different way. When the world's running this way, the scriptures teach a different way. Jesus calls us to a better way. So, I think the better way is not to join in and turn up the outrage volume but instead to enter in on a mission."

Before we jump into the fray trying to prove our point among all the arguments, we need to remember that our mission is not to win arguments; our mission is to help people find their way back to God. We have been given the task of reconciling people to God. We are his ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). And anything in our words or actions toward those in the world that jeopardizes our mission should cause us pause.

As pastor Andy Stanley reminds us: “Never make a point at the expense of making a difference.”

God’s dream for the world is that every person finds their way back to him. That’s the opportunity before us that Paul is talking about in Colossians 4. We need to ask ourselves: Am I jeopardizing an opportunity with this person by how I am speaking and/or acting?

The challenge in this message is to EMBODY GRACE. To stand out as people full of grace in the middle of our angry culture. We’ll want to give people practical suggestions of how we can do this.

3C shadow side: We will lose our opportunity to CONTRIBUTE to the mission of Jesus if we alienate those in the world that we are called to reach.

Docent Requests:

Illustrations of how our culture is angry (from ridiculous things like stupid lawsuits to real issues we’re fighting over).

Best quotes / practical ideas from Ed Stetzer’s Christians in the Age of Outrage. (either from the book or interviews/articles about it).

Examples of division (us vs. them) throughout history.

Stories of bridging the gap between the us vs. them mentality.

Where does this division/defensiveness come from?