



Love is Not Easily PROVOKED

The story is told of a man that made a trek across the U.S. He traveled from New York City to San Francisco on foot. When asked, "What was your greatest difficulty along your journey?" it was expected that he would respond with something like the mountains, the deserts, or the extreme weather conditions on occasions. Rather, he responded, "My greatest obstacle was the sand in my shoes." Sometimes in our lifelong journeys, it can be the small things that people do, the small things that people say, or the small things in general that agitate, irritate, or provoke us. But maybe, as we grow in the love of God, we can be strengthened and encouraged not to let such things set us on edge. For, Paul tells us that love "is not easily provoked" (1 Corinthians 13:5).

(continued inside ...)

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for
all ages & Pew Packers
each Sunday at 12:30

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

... Let us consider four ways we can grow in godly love ... so as to not be easily provoked. First, when we are tempted to be provoked and set on edge, we need to **pursue the example of our Lord**. Isaiah prophesied of our Lord's sacrificial strength in love. Because of our sins, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). Second, when we are tempted to be easily provoked, we need to **pray to our Father**. Peter exhorts the Christian readers of his writings in "Casting all your care upon him" (1 Peter 5:7). Why should we cast all of our cares, concerns, and anxieties upon our God? Because "he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Third, when we are tempted to be set on edge, we need to **practice self-control**. James writes, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations: knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:2-3). Fourth, we can be exhorted to grow in this love that is not easily provoked if we **provoke one another**. In 1 Corinthians 13:5, we find a negative usage of "provoke." In Hebrews 10:24, we find a positive usage of the word "provoke." "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:24-25). When boiling water is stirred, or provoked, it is made to be able to withstand great amounts of heat before beginning to boil. Likewise, when Christians positively provoke one another unto love and good works, Christians can withstand ...

... greater amounts of negative provoking, or agitation, so that we are not "easily provoked."

Love "is not easily provoked." We can see this tremendous characteristic in our God. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). If God were easily provoked, we would have been completely destroyed long ago. However, love "is not easily provoked."

—written by Clifton Angel



Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth [3 John 2].

Sermon Review

THE HOLY SPIRIT

- I. What the Holy Spirit is Not.
- II. Who the Holy Spirit is.

BE YE HOLY

(Leviticus 19:1–2)

- I. **Eat Right** (Lev 11:4–8; John 6:35; 4:14; 1 Pet 2:2)
- II. **Be Clothed Right** (Lev 8:5–9; Gal 3:27; Rev 3:5)
- III. **Live Right** (Lev 10:9–10; 18; 20; Gal 5:19–21)
- IV. **Worship Right** (Lev 10:1–2; John 4:24)

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Several traveling; **Ferrell**, Pruett, & Colvett families. **Jerry Davis** is recovering well. **Wiley Tuggle**, having recurring esophagus/stomach problems; **Betty Tuggle**; **Helen Bowman**.

NetCasters
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Charles Savage, prostate cancer, treatments have not gone as planned so far; **Jason Spencer**, battling major health issues & loss of his wife; **Janet Colvett**, received good reports following her treatments, but 2 major deaths in her family; **Frederick Bland**, in nursing home and recent battle with pneumonia; **Trixie Savage**, Lara's grandmother, skin cancer removed, treatments to follow; **Frankie Burfield**, to have hip replacement surgery and kidney cancer discovered; **Jack Higginbotham**; **Laura Swayne**, Patrick Swayne's mother, uterine cancer; **Tasha Higginbotham**, on donor list for kidney transplant; **Steve Geeslin**, brain tumor; **Jason Spencer**, health complications; **Lauren Harrell**, breast cancer; **James Cooper**, Jan's brother, cancer; **Marie Sims**, Ashby Johnson's mother, cancer; **Renee Loya**, Ruth's niece, Parkinson's, MS, & dystonia; **Paul Perkins**, Mischel's father; **Eli Williams**, cancer returned, receiving treatments; **Vicki Angel**; **Ray Maples**; **John & Anita Simpson**; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, stage 4 cancer; **Virginia Johnson**, stage 4 lung cancer; **Joy Angel**, various health problems; **Linda Perkins**, leukemia; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**, toddler with leukemia; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**; **Carly Wright**, 3 yr. old with liver cancer; **Joe & Josephine Johnston**, and their sons, Charles and Chris; **Carla Carlson**.

Birthdays

4/6 Ainsley Moore
4/20 Aubrey Ratliff

Get Involved!

Parents of Youth Meeting -- TODAY
Between services

Providence Place Devotional -- TODAY -- 2 PM

Southaven Gospel Meeting -- Apr 13 -- 17
7:30pm Sun, 7pm Mon–Thurs, Don Blackwell

April Bible Bowl -- Apr 19 -- Gen 31 -- 33
5 PM at Independence, Potluck style meal
All invited!

Singing Night -- Apr 30 -- 7 PM

Coldwater VBS -- June 8 -- 12
See Jerry for any ?'s and teaching materials

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, April 13

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeremy Moore
Announcements	Billy Bland
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jim Jackson
	Joe Owen
Assist	Payton Jackson
	Daniel Owen
Opening Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Jerry Davis
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Joe Owen
	Daniel Owen
Closing Prayer	Ron Johnson

Wednesday, April 16

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Seth Daniel
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jerry Davis