

# St John Church of Christ

July 19, 2020

## ONLINE

### Children's Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Join Pete and Penelope online at 10:00 A.M.

### Adult Bible Class

10:30 - 10:45 A.M.

The Apostle Paul describes a new kind of love – Agape: Christian Love – by passing it through a prism and giving us a 15-color rainbow. Today's description concerns not being "selfish," or "irritable."

## LIVE & ONLINE

### Worship

11:00 - 11:45 A.M.

You can join us live at the building or online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOOPdVv3YaCn-L1QnT2BftQA>

There are simple links to follow from our website: <https://StJohnChurchofChrist.org>.

*Note: We are transitioning to YouTube rather than Facebook for our broadcasts.*

(CCLI #244012t9)



# The Case of the Angry Bus Driver



Ray was a nice guy. I couldn't do what he did. Ray was a bus driver, and every day he had to deal with bad drivers and angry passengers. He was responsible for people's safety, and he took that responsibility seriously, but Ray had a problem. He was the angriest man I ever knew.

Playing golf with Ray was a unique experience. If a shot went foul, Ray's face would turn red. The veins on his neck would begin to flare. A string of profanity would pour out of his mouth, and he would bend his club over his knee and fling it into a tree or the water trap. That would make him even angrier, and balls and clubs would soon be pouring out of his bag in every direction.

Perhaps it was therapeutic. All-day long from morning till night Ray had to be reserved and polite. He couldn't indulge in road rage, and the bus company frowned on their drivers using firearms or martial arts on brain-dead passengers. So Ray would smile and laugh and hold it in until he couldn't take it anymore. Then pity the poor golf clubs and the people he played with on the weekends. He wasn't pleasant to be around, and his wife finally gave up. Who wants to live with a volcano?

You couldn't say Ray was happy. Life robbed him of joy, and his future prospects didn't look good. What advice would you give him? Here are some of the things

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we talked about at the nineteenth hole.

God created us with emotions, including our anger. Jesus wasn't a Stoic, and neither should we be. However, there is often a world of difference between the anger of Jesus and our explosive outbursts. The anger of Jesus was righteous (justified), and he became angry at injustice. Think of the hard hearts of the Pharisees (Mark 3:5) or the way the merchants took advantage of the pilgrims in the Temple (John 2)

Second, Paul advises us not to let the sun go down on our anger. That means not saving up slights! When I was a little boy, merchants gave out green stamps that you could save up, paste into books, and redeem for items in their catalog (like my first pup tent). Sometimes we're like that. Something happens that upsets us, but it's not a big enough deal to become truly angry about, so we just file it away until we have enough little annoyances to redeem for a good fight.

Third, sometimes I go looking for trouble. A while back, Jan and I were in the mood for a great hamburger. The line was long (just like I expected), and I saw an arrogant, rich man walk right to the front of the line and place his order before the rest of us and especially a little family whose turn it was. They were just about to order when this guy and his painted wife pushed by them. I was furious and was just about to say something when he pulled out his wallet and paid for the rest of the family's meal. "Thanks, Uncle Ralph." The funny thing is I was disappointed I

couldn't express my righteous indignation! I think I was just looking for a fight. Ouch.

No, the best advice I could give to Ray (and myself) is to learn the power of patient forgiveness. Paul told the Romans, "Do not repay anyone evil for evil.... If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary:

'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.'

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17-21).

Your golf clubs will thank you.



## For Your Prayers

God answers prayer!

- Terry is doing much better after his surgery. He and Joy have joined us faithfully for our internet services. We're looking forward to them being able to join us!
- Please pray for little two-year old Maren in Great Bend. She is struggling with leukemia and a bone marrow transplant.
- There was a terrible accident this week. Many of you know the McKiernan Family. Tim was extracted from the wreckage and taken to the hospital. Tim's grandmother, Judy, who just moved here to be close to the family, was killed in the wreck.