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# Towards a Virtuous Life

*Towards Mercy, Away from Wrath*

Ephesians 4:22-5:2 & John 2:12-22

April 3, 2022 | Rev. Abi Foerster

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## THE SIN OF WRATH

### WRATH DEFINED:

A forceful, often vindictive anger.

*Get rid of all bitterness, **rage and anger**, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. (Ephesians 4:31)*

- I. **God's design is for our lives to be free from unchecked, unresolved \_\_\_\_\_.**

*In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. (Eph 4:26-27)*

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (v. 29)*

- II. **Is anger always a \_\_\_\_\_? What about Jesus?**

*In the temple courts, he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he **made a whip** out of cords, and **drove all from the temple area**, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the moneychangers and overturned their tables. (John 2:14-15)*

- Anger belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE VIRTUE OF MERCY

**We must ask ourselves:**

Is God angry about this situation?

- I. Our call is to \_\_\_\_\_ God's mercy and love.

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)*

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, **forgiving each other**, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)*

**Call to Action:** Over the next 3 weeks, engage with the Stories of Forgiveness. Attend the Gallery Talk on April 9, 1 – 4 pm. Walk the Labyrinth that will be set up. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you.