



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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## WORD WOUNDS



IT'S NO SECRET THAT WE LIVE AMID VIOLENCE. YOU CAN'T TURN ON THE TELEVISION WITHOUT DAILY REPORTS OF ANOTHER SHOOTING IN THE METRO AREA. WE CAN EASILY DISMISS THESE AS ACTS COMMITTED BY GANGS WHO INHABIT THE GHETTOS OF OUR CITY, BUT THERE MAY BE MORE TO IT THAN THAT. COULD NOT AT LEAST SOME OF THE PROBLEM BE THAT WE ARE ANGRY PEOPLE? ANGRY PEOPLE WOUND AND KILL WITH WEAPONS, BUT THEY CAN ALSO DO SO WITH WORDS.

WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT VIOLENCE IN OUR STREETS BUT WHAT ABOUT THE VITRIOL AMONG OUR POLITICIANS? HOSTILITY FILLS OUR GOVERNMENT'S HALLOWED HALLS. EVERY NATIONAL NEWSCAST LEADS WITH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS FUSSING AND FEUDING OVER IMPEACHMENT, IMMIGRATION AND SCANDALOUS ACCUSATIONS. IT SEEMS MOST POLITICIANS PREFER MALICIOUS WORDS OVER MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION. OUR NATION'S GANGS ARE MEAN-SPIRITED AND MURDEROUS BUT SO ARE THOSE WHO GOVERN US.

PROVERBS INDICATES THAT THIS ANGRY CONDITION IS FOOLISH. "A QUICK-TEMPERED MAN ACTS FOOLISHLY, AND A MAN OF EVIL DEVICES IS HATED." (PROVERBS 14:17). ANGER IS NOT JUST FOOLISH IT FUELS CONTENTION. "LIKE CHARCOAL TO HOT EMBERS AND WOOD TO FIRE, SO IS A CONTENTIOUS MAN TO KINDLE STRIFE. (PROVERBS 26:21). AS LONG AS THERE IS ANGER, THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE. PROVERBS 29:22 TELLS US THAT "AN ANGRY MAN STIRS UP STRIFE, AND A HOT-TEMPERED MAN ABOUNDS IN TRANSGRESSION."

CONSIDER THESE CONTRASTS. "HE WHO IS SLOW TO ANGER HAS GREAT UNDERSTANDING, BUT HE WHO IS QUICK-TEMPERED EXALTS FOLLY." (PROVERBS 14:29) "A HOT-TEMPERED MAN STIRS UP STRIFE, BUT THE SLOW TO ANGER PACIFIES CONTENTION." (PROVERBS 15:18) PROVERBS 20:3 SAYS "KEEPING AWAY FROM STRIFE IS AN HONOR FOR A MAN, BUT ANY FOOL WILL QUARREL."

SO, WHAT IS THE CURE FOR ANGRY WORDS AND ACTIONS? THE WISE WILL BE GRACIOUS. "A MAN'S DISCRETION MAKES HIM SLOW TO ANGER, AND IT IS HIS GLORY TO OVERLOOK A TRANSGRESSION. (PROVERBS 19:11). WE NEED TO BE A PEOPLE WHO ARE LESS THIN-SKINNED, LESS EAGER TO ARGUE AND DEVOID OF DETAILING THE FAULTS OF OTHERS. WE SHOULD ALSO JUST STAY AWAY FROM ANGRY PEOPLE. PROVERBS 22:24 ADVISES US, "DO NOT ASSOCIATE WITH A MAN GIVEN TO ANGER; OR GO WITH A HOT-TEMPERED MAN," IT'S EASY FOR US TO FUEL OUR OWN ANGER BY LISTENING TO OTHER ANGRY PEOPLE. WHY NOT JUST TURN OFF THE HOT-TEMPERED TALKERS?

LET US REMEMBER JAMES 1:19 AND "BE QUICK TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK AND SLOW TO ANGER."

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE

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