THE QUESTION

What did the early church teach about anger and reconciliation (Matthew 5:21–26)?

Asked by a THF member on November 8, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 13 numbered quotations · the 39 early Christian passages and 294 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-church-teach-about-anger-and-reconciliation

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Early writers taught that Jesus traced murder back to anger, insult and hatred in the heart. They said a believer must make peace with a brother before worship or prayer, and settle quarrels quickly, before anger hardens into hatred. Some allowed anger that corrects wrong, but never anger kept overnight.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	Jesus traces murder back to anger	2
2	Cain shows where envy can lead	2
3	Small daily things can stir great anger	3
4	Make peace before you come to worship	3
5	Anger blocks our prayers	4
6	Settle quarrels quickly, before sunset	4
7	Anger that corrects wrong is different	5
8	We are forgiven as we forgive	5
	What these passages don't tell us	5
	The Sources: 39 early Christian passages and 294 Bible verses, with links	6

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 1 OF 8

Jesus traces murder back to anger

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian says the Lord widened the command against murder. It now covers cursing words, every rush of anger and a lack of love for a brother. Clement of Alexandria, on John's letter, agrees that hatred of a brother is already a kind of murder.

1 “He judges that murder consists even in a word of cursing or reproach, Matthew 5:22, and in every impulse of anger, and in the failure of love toward a brother, just as John teaches in 1 John 3:15, that the one who hates his brother is a murderer.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Idolatry* 2 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer. For through unbelief, Christ dies in him.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Cain shows where envy can lead

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Rome retells how Cain's grief and envy toward Abel ended in murder. He uses it to warn that jealousy between brothers is the seed of violence.

3 “You see, brothers, how envy and jealousy led to the murder of a brother.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 39, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 3 OF 8

Small daily things can stir great anger

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hermas warns that anger often flares over food, a careless word or a small debt. He traces a chain from folly to bitterness to anger to frenzy, ending in serious sin. This speaks to anger in ordinary everyday life.

4

"For as soon as it sees such men standing firm, it throws itself into their hearts, and for nothing at all the man or woman becomes embittered because of things that happen in daily life, for example because of food, or some unnecessary word that has been spoken, or because of some friend, or some gift or debt, or some such senseless matter."

later in the same passage

"Now from folly bitterness is begotten, and from bitterness anger, and from anger frenzy."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Make peace before you come to worship

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache tells anyone in conflict with a fellow believer not to join the Lord's Day meal until reconciled. Cyprian reads Jesus' words the same way: the one in conflict is called back from the altar to make peace first.

5

"But let no one who is in conflict with a fellow believer come together with you until they are reconciled, so that your sacrifice may not be defiled."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 14 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

6

"He also calls back from the altar a person who comes to the sacrifice while in conflict, and commands him first to be reconciled with his brother, and then to return in peace and offer his gift to God."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 23, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 5 OF 8

Anger blocks our prayers

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian asks how anyone can seek God's peace and forgiveness while holding on to a quarrel. The Apostolic Constitutions explain that the "gift" Jesus speaks of is our prayer and thanksgiving, which God will not accept while we are at odds.

7 “For what kind of deed is it to approach the peace of God without peace? To seek the remission of debts while you still keep them?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Prayer* 11 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 16, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 “Now the gift to God is each person's prayer and thanksgiving.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 28, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Settle quarrels quickly, before sunset

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Jesus said to agree with an adversary quickly. The Apostolic Constitutions explain why: anger left too long turns into settled hatred. Tertullian adds that we may not go even one day without patience, so peace must be made the same day.

9 “That is, be quickly reconciled, lest your anger continue so long that it turns into settled hatred and produces sin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 28, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

10 “If the sun goes down on our wrath, we are in danger. We are not allowed to remain one day without patience.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Patience* 12 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 17, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 7 OF 8

Anger that corrects wrong is different

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

On "without a cause," Lactantius says God did not root out anger itself but forbids staying angry. He allows anger that seeks to correct wrong, while rage is always wrong. Tertullian is stricter, saying all anger is forbidden, yet both agree it must not last past sunset.

11 “Therefore, He does not completely forbid anger, because this feeling has necessarily been given. But He forbids us to remain in anger.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *On the Anger of God* 21 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 36, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

12 “But the anger that has to do with correcting vices ought not to be taken away from man.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *On the Anger of God* 17 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 38, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

We are forgiven as we forgive

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian links this teaching to the Lord's Prayer. We cannot receive forgiveness for our own sins unless we also forgive those who wrong us. God wants His children to live in peace and one mind.

13 “We must know that what we ask for concerning our sins cannot be obtained unless we also have acted in the same way toward our debtors.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 24, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not give a step-by-step plan for how to approach a brother when making peace.

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

- The writers do not fully agree on whether any anger is allowed; they agree only that it must not be kept.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 39 early Christian passages and 294 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–39, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 40–195, in Bible order), then 138 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *39 passages from 17 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 14 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "let no one that is at variance with his fellow come together with you, until they be reconciled, that your sacrifice may not be profaned… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 2 shall not speak evil. You shall bear no grudge… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–4*

3 *Shepherd* (on point 3) he will serve God with gladness, having great peace within himself. But if any outburst of anger happens, the Holy Spirit, who is gentle, is immediately cramped, because he does… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* **Quote 4, page 3** righteousness. But it does not turn away those who are full of faith, nor does it act on them, because the power of the Lord is with them. It is… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · source 5*

5 *Epistles of Ignatius* should eat, so they don't become a wanderer and a whoremonger. Let drunkenness, anger, envy, reviling, clamor, and blasphemy "not even be mentioned among you." Widows should not live… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 6–7*

6 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 8) "then we entreat the Lord to forgive us, we ought also ourselves to forgive… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistle to the Philippians* covetousness, love of money, evil speaking, and false witness; "not returning evil for evil, or reviling for reviling," or blow for blow, or cursing for cursing, but remembering what the… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *Diatessaron* 27 (on point 8) “children, and all that he had should be sold, and payment be made. So that servant fell down and worshiped him, saying, “My lord, have patience with me, and I… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Diatessaron* 8 (on point 6) “5:23 If you are now offering your gift at the altar… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 10*

10 *To Autolycus* 29 (on point 2) “in putting them to death. And when he saw that Abel was pleasing to God, he worked on the heart of his brother Cain and caused him to kill his… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 11*

11 *Against Heresies: Book II* (on point 1) “at all. He told them not only not to speak evil of their neighbors, but not even to call anyone "Raca" and "fool," declaring that otherwise, they were in danger… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 12–14*

12 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 37 (1885 English; on point 1) “and weightily John says, He that loves not his brother is a murderer, 1 John 3:14-15 the seed of Cain, a nursling of the devil… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 39 (1885 English; on point 8) “also the Lord commands us each day to forgive the repenting brethren… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “15. Every one who hates his brother is a murderer… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 15–18*

15 *Against Marcion* 34 (on point 8) “Much more, then, should you bring back your wandering brother to himself. He commands you to forgive your brother if he sins against you even seven times, Luke 17:4… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *On Prayer* 11 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “which precepts the chief is, that we go not up unto God's altar before we compose whatever of discord or offense we have contracted with our brethren… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *On Patience* 12 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 4** “5:23-24 If the sun go down over our wrath, we are in jeopardy: we are not allowed to remain one day without patience… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *On Idolatry* 2 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “He judges murder Matthew 5:22 to consist even in a word of curse or of reproach, and in every impulse of anger, and in the neglect of charity toward… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 19*

19 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (on point 2) to righteousness, Esau is excited to strife, and deceitfully meditates death, saying in his heart, "Let the days of the mourning for my father come on, and I will slay… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 20–21*

20 *Commentary on Matthew* 13 your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault between you and him alone.” Matthew 18:15 Whoever pays close attention to this statement, as proof of the… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (on point 8) “Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Matthew 18:21” It seems to me completely foolish to think… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 22–26*

22 *Treatises* (on point 8) “You should forgive a brother who sins against you, not only seven times… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** “Thus, also, when He gave the law of prayer, He added, saying, And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Treatises* **Quote 13, page 5** “God does not receive the sacrifice of a person who is in disagreement, but commands him to go back from the altar and first… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

25 *Treatises* (on point 8) After this we also plead for our sins, saying, "And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors." After asking for the supply of food, we also ask… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Epistles* (on point 1) again the Lord says in His Gospel, “Whoever says to his brother, ‘You fool,’ and whoever says, ‘Raca,’ shall be in danger of the Gehenna of fire,” in Matthew 5… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 27–30*

27 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 8) not before their eyes." Now the way of peace is our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us, saying, "Forgive, and you shall be forgiven. Give, and it shall be given… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quotes 8, 9, page 4** “the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Apostolic Constitutions* away the innocent and slay the righteous. For he who receives such accusations is the author of anger rather than of peace. But where there is anger, the Lord is… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) who then forbade murder, does now forbid causeless anger… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 31*

31 *Writings* (1885 English; on point 1) “not angry with your devout brother without a cause, for you shall receive whatever you may have done from him… [continues online] **read ›**

Victorinus, *c. 270–303 AD · source 32*

32 *Commentary on the Apocalypse* (on point 5) the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar.” Certainly, our gifts are the prayers we offer, and prayers rise… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 33–38*

33 *On the Anger of God* 18 (on point 7) rebuked his steward's fault and said, "Wretch, I would have beaten you to death if I had not been angry." They think this is a remarkable example of self… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *On the Anger of God* 17 (on point 7) injury comes first. I am not speaking of those who sin against the laws. Although a judge may be angry with such people without blame, let us still suppose that… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Divine Institutes* 19 (on point 7) to man, can be understood from the commands of God Himself. He commands that we should not be angry with those who insult and injure us, but that we should… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *On the Anger of God* 21 **Quote 11, page 5** “still remains, and it is the last one. Someone may perhaps say that God is so far from being angry that, in His commands, He even forbids a man to… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *On the Anger of God* 18 (1885 English; on point 7) “he who is altogether unmoved either approves of faults, which is more disgraceful and unjust, or avoids the trouble of reproving them, which a tranquil spirit and a quiet mind… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *On the Anger of God* 17 (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** “is just anger; and as it is necessary in man for the correction of wickedness, so manifestly is it necessary in God, from whom an example comes to man… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 39*

39 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 3, page 2** “attacked Abel his brother and killed him.” You see, brothers, how envy and jealousy led to the murder of a brother. Through envy, our father Jacob fled from Esau his… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *156 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

40 **Genesis 4:8** Cain said to Abel his brother, “Let us go out into the plain.” And while they were in the plain, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. **read ›**

41 **Genesis 4:11** And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

42 **Genesis 20:5** Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And did she not say to me, ‘He is my brother’? With a pure heart and with righteous hands I have done this.” **read ›**

43 **Genesis 27:41** Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him. And Esau said in his mind, “Let the days of mourning for my father draw near, so that I may kill Jacob my brother.” **read ›**

44 **Genesis 27:44** Stay with him some days, until the fury **read ›**

45 **Genesis 33:3** But he himself went on ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. **read ›**

46 **Genesis 43:30** Joseph was troubled, for his heart yearned over his brother, and he wanted to weep. So he went into his inner room and wept there. **read ›**

47 **Genesis 50:17** ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph: “Forgive them their unrighteousness and their sin, for they did evil to you.”’ And now, pardon the unrighteousness of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept while they spoke to him. **read ›**

48 **Exodus 10:17** Now therefore forgive my sin this once more, and pray to the Lord your God, and let him take this death away from me.” **read ›**

49 **Exodus 32:32** And now, if you will forgive them their sin, forgive it; but if not, blot me out of your book that you have written.” **read ›**

50 **Leviticus 1:3** If his gift is a whole burnt offering, he shall bring an unblemished male from the oxen to the door of the tabernacle of witness; he shall offer it to be acceptable before the Lord. **read ›**

51 **Leviticus 2:7** If your gift is a sacrifice from the hearth, it shall be made of fine flour with oil. **read ›**

52 **Leviticus 2:9** The priest shall come near to the altar and take from the sacrifice its memorial, and the priest shall put it on the altar: a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. **read ›**

53 **Leviticus 3:7** If he brings a lamb as his gift, he shall bring it before the Lord. **read ›**

54 **Leviticus 4:23** and the sin in which he has sinned becomes known to him, then he shall offer as his gift a male goat from the goats, an unblemished male. **read ›**

55 **Leviticus 6:7** And the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord, and he shall be forgiven for any one of all the things that he did and in which he trespassed.” (Septuagint Leviticus 5:26 (Leviticus 6:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

56 **Leviticus 7:5** And the priest shall offer them up on the altar as a burnt offering to the Lord. It is a guilt offering. **read ›**

57 **Leviticus 7:13** With loaves of bread made with yeast he shall offer his gifts, with the peace offering of praise. **read ›**

58 **Leviticus 8:15** He slaughtered it, and Moses took some of the blood and put it with his finger on the horns of the altar all around, and he purified the altar. He poured out the blood at the base of the altar and sanctified it, to make atonement on it. **read ›**

59 **Leviticus 9:4** and a calf and a ram for a peace offering before the Lord, and fine flour kneaded with oil; for today the Lord will appear among you.’” **read ›**

60 **Leviticus 9:7** Then Moses said to Aaron, “Go near to the altar, and offer your sin offering and your whole burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for your house; and offer the gifts of the people, and make atonement for them, just as the Lord commanded Moses.” **read ›**

61 **Leviticus 14:20** The priest shall offer up the whole burnt offering and the sacrifice on the altar before the Lord; and the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be cleansed. **read ›**

62 **Numbers 5:15** then the man shall bring his wife to the priest, and he shall bring the gift for her, a tenth of an ephah of barley meal. He shall not pour oil on it or put frankincense on it, for it is a sacrifice of jealousy, a sacrifice of memorial, bringing sin to remembrance. **read ›**

63 **Numbers 7:10** And the leaders made offerings for the dedication of the altar on the day that he anointed it, and the leaders brought their gifts before the altar. **read ›**

64 **Numbers 14:19** Forgive the sin of this people according to your great mercy, just as you have been gracious to them from Egypt until now.” **read ›**

65 **Numbers 31:50** So we have brought the Lord’s gift, each man what he found: an article of gold, anklets, bracelets, rings, armlets, and hair clasps, to make atonement for us before the Lord.” **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

66 **Numbers 35:19** The avenger of blood himself shall put the killer to death; whenever he meets him, he shall kill him. **read ›**

67 **Numbers 35:21** or strikes him with his hand out of anger, and he dies, let the one who struck him surely be put to death; he is a murderer; let the murderer surely be put to death. The avenger of blood shall put the killer to death when he meets him. **read ›**

68 **Deuteronomy 5:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

69 **Deuteronomy 15:3** From a foreigner you may demand back whatever he has of yours, but to your brother you shall make a release of your debt. **read ›**

70 **Deuteronomy 19:6** so that the avenger of blood, because his heart is hot, may not pursue the slayer and overtake him if the way is long, and strike him mortally; yet for this man there is no sentence of death, because the slayer had not hated him before. **read ›**

71 **Deuteronomy 19:19** then you shall do to him as he wickedly planned to do against his brother, and you shall remove the evil from among yourselves. **read ›**

72 **Deuteronomy 26:4** And the priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it before the altar of the Lord your God. **read ›**

73 **Deuteronomy 28:54** The man who is tender and very pampered among you shall look with a grudging eye on his brother, and on the wife he holds close, and on the children who remain, whatever may be left to him, **read ›**

74 **Deuteronomy 32:22** For a fire has been kindled from my wrath; it shall burn down to Hades below; it shall devour the land and its produce; it shall set on fire the foundations of the mountains. **read ›**

75 **1 Samuel 2:25** If a man surely sins against a man, then they will pray for him to the Lord; but if he sins against the Lord, who will pray for him?" But they did not listen to the voice of their father, for the Lord surely willed to destroy them. **read ›**

76 **1 Samuel 15:25** Now, please take away my sin, and turn back with me, and I will worship the Lord your God." **read ›**

77 **2 Samuel 22:9** Smoke went up in his wrath, and fire from his mouth devours; coals were kindled from it. **read ›**

78 **1 Kings 8:31** If a man commits any sin against his neighbor, and he takes an oath upon himself that puts him under a curse, and he comes and confesses before your altar in this house, **read ›**

79 **1 Kings 8:64** On that day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the Lord; for there he offered the whole burnt offering and the sacrifices and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the Lord was too small to hold the whole burnt offering and the sacrifices of the peace offerings. **read ›**

80 **1 Kings 13:30** and they mourned for him, "Alas, brother!" **read ›**

81 **2 Chronicles 7:7** Then Solomon sanctified the middle of the court that was in the house of the Lord, for there he offered the whole burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that Solomon had made could not hold the whole burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat. **read ›**

82 **2 Chronicles 29:24** And the priests slaughtered them and made atonement with their blood at the altar, and made atonement for all Israel; for the king said, "The whole burnt offering and the sin offerings are for all Israel." **read ›**

83 **2 Chronicles 33:16** He restored the altar of the Lord and sacrificed on it a sacrifice of peace offering and of praise, and he told Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel. **read ›**

84 **Job 16:18** O earth, do not cover over the blood of my flesh, and let there be no place for my cry. **read ›**

85 **Psalms 4:4** Be angry, and do not sin; be pierced to the heart upon your beds for what you say in your hearts. Pause. (Septuagint Psalm 4:5 (Psalm 4:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

86 **Psalms 7:11** God is a righteous judge, and strong, and patient, not bringing on anger every day. (Septuagint Psalm 7:12 (Psalm 7:11 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

87 **Psalms 37:8** Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret so as to do evil. (Septuagint Psalm 36:8 (Psalm 37:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

88 **Psalms 50:14** Offer to God a sacrifice of praise, and pay your vows to the Most High; (Septuagint Psalm 49:14 (Psalm 50:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

89 **Psalms 50:20** You sat and spoke against your brother, and you set a stumbling block before your mother's son. (Septuagint Psalm 49:20 (Psalm 50:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

90 **Psalms 52:4** You have loved all words that swallow up, a deceitful tongue. (Septuagint Psalm 51:6 (Psalm 52:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

91 **Proverbs 6:19** An unrighteous witness kindles lies, and sends disputes between brothers. **read ›**

92 **Proverbs 10:18** Righteous lips cover hostility, but those who utter abuse are most foolish. **read ›**

93 **Proverbs 23:14** For you will strike him with the rod, and you will deliver his soul from death. **read ›**

94 **Proverbs 26:28** A lying tongue hates the truth, and an unguarded mouth causes disorders. **read ›**

95 **Proverbs 29:22** A hot-tempered man stirs up quarrels, and an angry man digs up sin. **read ›**

96 **Ecclesiastes 7:29** Only, see, this I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many reasonings. Who knows the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a saying? **read ›**

97 **Isaiah 1:24** Therefore thus says the Lord, the Master of hosts: Woe to the mighty of Israel; for my wrath shall not cease against the adversaries, and I will execute judgment on my enemies. **read ›**

98 **Isaiah 2:17** And every man shall be brought low, and the arrogance of men shall fall, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. **read ›**

99 **Isaiah 3:3** and the commander of fifty, and the wonderful counselor, and the wise master builder, and the understanding hearer. **read ›**

100 **Isaiah 9:9** And all the people of Ephraim and those who dwell in Samaria will know, who say in arrogance and loftiness of heart, (Septuagint Isaiah 9:8 (Isaiah 9:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

101 **Jeremiah 4:5** Declare it in Judah, and let it be heard in Jerusalem; say, “Sound the trumpet in the land”; cry aloud; say, “Gather together, and let us go into the walled cities.” **read ›**

102 **Jeremiah 13:5** So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the Lord commanded me. **read ›**

103 **Jeremiah 33:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **Jeremiah 34:7** And the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and against the cities of Judah, against Lachish and against Azekah; for these were left among the cities of Judah as fortified cities. (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:7 (Jeremiah 34:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

105 **Jeremiah 36:8** Baruch did according to all that Jeremiah commanded him, reading in the book the words of the Lord in the house of the Lord. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:8 (Jeremiah 36:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

106 **Jeremiah 49:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **Jeremiah 49:20** Therefore hear the counsel of the Lord, which he has counseled against Idumea, and his plan, which he has planned against those who dwell in Teman: surely the least of the sheep will be swept away; surely their dwelling place will be made desolate against them; (Septuagint Jeremiah 30:14 (Jeremiah 49:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

108 **Jeremiah 51:4** And the slain will fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and those pierced through, outside her. (Septuagint Jeremiah 28:4 (Jeremiah 51:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

109 **Jeremiah 51:6** Flee from the midst of Babylon, and let each one save his life, and do not be cast away in her unrighteousness; for it is the time of her punishment from the Lord; he is paying her back a repayment. (Septuagint Jeremiah 28:6 (Jeremiah 51:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

110 **Ezekiel 8:5** And he said to me, “Son of man, lift up your eyes toward the north.” And I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, from the north toward the gate facing east. **read ›**

111 **Ezekiel 18:4** For all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son, they are mine; the soul that sins, it shall die. **read ›**

112 **Ezekiel 21:4** Because I will destroy out of you the unrighteous and the lawless, therefore my dagger shall go out of its sheath against all flesh from the east to the north, (Septuagint Ezekiel 21:9 (Ezekiel 21:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

113 **Ezekiel 31:11** I handed it over into the hands of the ruler of the nations, and he brought about its destruction. **read ›**

114 **Ezekiel 36:18** And I poured out my wrath on them, **read ›**

115 **Daniel 11:5** And the king of the south shall grow strong; and one of their rulers shall grow strong against him and shall rule with great dominion. **read ›**

116 **Daniel 11:13** And the king of the north shall return and bring a multitude greater than the first; and at the end of the times of years an invasion shall come with a great army and with many possessions. **read ›**

117 **Hosea 7:9** Foreigners devoured his strength, and he did not know it; and gray hairs blossomed on him, and he did not know it. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

118 **Amos 1:11** Thus says the Lord: For three ungodly deeds of Idumea, and for four, I will not turn away from them, because they pursued their brother with the sword, and he destroyed the mother upon the earth, and seized his trembling for a testimony, and kept his onrush forever. **read ›**

119 **Jonah 2:3** you cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea, and rivers surrounded me; all your surges and your waves passed over me. (Septuagint Jonah 2:4 (Jonah 2:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

120 **1 Esdras 9:20** They pledged themselves to put away their wives, and to offer rams in atonement for their ignorance. **read ›**

121 **Judith 16:18** When the people came to Jerusalem, they worshiped God; and as soon as the people were purified, they offered their whole burnt offerings, their freewill offerings, and their gifts. **read ›**

122 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:11** Beware, then, of useless grumbling, and keep your tongue from slander; for no secret word goes out empty, and a lying mouth slays the soul. **read ›**

123 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:3** But when an unrighteous man departed from her in his anger, he perished along with his brother-murdering wrath. **read ›**

124 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:2** and because, though wronged before, they did not harm them, they gave thanks, and begged their pardon for having been at odds. **read ›**

125 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:13** Glory and dishonor are in speaking, and a man’s tongue is his downfall. **read ›**

126 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:14** Do not be called a gossip, and do not lie in ambush with your tongue; for shame is upon the thief, and an evil condemnation upon the double-tongued. **read ›**

127 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:17** Humble your soul greatly. Remember that anger will not delay, for the punishment of the ungodly is fire and worm. **read ›**

128 **Wisdom of Sirach 9:18** A talkative man is feared in his city, and he who is rash in his speech will be hated. **read ›**

129 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:18** Pride was not created for men, nor the anger of wrath for those born of women. **read ›**

130 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:6** In a congregation of sinners a fire will be kindled, and in a disobedient nation anger has blazed up. **read ›**

131 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:25** Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins; make your prayer before his face and lessen your offense. **read ›**

132 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:2** The Lord alone will be justified. **read ›**

133 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:23** Before you pray, prepare yourself, and do not be like a man who tests the Lord. **read ›**

134 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:16** There is one who slips, but not from the soul; and who has not sinned with his tongue? **read ›**

135 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:1** My child, have you sinned? Do not do so again, and pray concerning your former sins. **read ›**

136 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:9** A congregation of the lawless is like flax fiber gathered together, and their end is a flame of fire. **read ›**

137 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:28** The gossip defiles his own soul, and will be hated where he lives. **read ›**

138 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:23** Before your eyes he will make your mouth sweet, and he will marvel at your words; but afterward he will twist his mouth, and set a stumbling block in your words. **read ›**

139 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

140 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:3** A man holds on to anger against a man, and seeks healing from the Lord! **read ›**

141 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:5** He, being flesh, keeps up wrath; who will make atonement for his sins? **read ›**

142 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:13** Curse the gossip and the double-tongued, for they have destroyed many who were at peace. **read ›**

143 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:14** A third tongue has shaken many, and driven them from nation to nation; it has pulled down strong cities, and overthrown the houses of nobles. **read ›**

144 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:15** A third tongue has driven out courageous women, and deprived them of their labors. **read ›**

145 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

146 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:14** And when he completed the service at the altars, to adorn the offering of the Most High, the Almighty, **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

147 **Wisdom of Sirach 51:5** from the depth of the belly of Hades, from an unclean tongue and a lying word— **read ›**

148 **Baruch 1:17** because we have sinned before the Lord, **read ›**

149 **Baruch 4:35** For fire will come upon her from the Everlasting for many days, and she will be inhabited by demons for a long time. **read ›**

150 **2 Maccabees 7:29** Do not fear this executioner, but prove worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that in mercy I may receive you back again with your brothers.” **read ›**

151 **2 Maccabees 7:38** and that through me and my brothers the wrath of the Almighty, which has justly fallen on our whole race, may come to an end.” **read ›**

152 **2 Maccabees 8:29** When they had done this, they made a common plea and begged the merciful Lord to be fully reconciled with his slaves. **read ›**

153 **4 Maccabees 1:24** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

154 **4 Maccabees 2:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

155 **4 Maccabees 3:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

156 **4 Maccabees 8:25** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

157 **4 Maccabees 9:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

158 **4 Maccabees 12:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

159 **4 Maccabees 13:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

160 **1 Enoch 94:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

161 **1 Enoch 98:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

162 **1 Enoch 100:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

163 **1 Enoch 100:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

164 **1 Enoch 103:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

165 **1 Enoch 108:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

166 **Matthew 5:22** But I tell you that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause will be liable to judgment. Whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ will be liable to the council. Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the fire of hell. **read ›**

167 **Matthew 5:23** “If therefore you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you, **read ›**

168 **Matthew 5:24** leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. **read ›**

169 **Matthew 10:21** Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. **read ›**

170 **Matthew 13:42** and will cast them into the fiery furnace. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **read ›**

171 **Matthew 13:50** and will cast them into the fiery furnace. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **read ›**

172 **Matthew 18:15** “If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother. **read ›**

173 **Matthew 18:35** So my heavenly Father will also do to you, if you do not each forgive your brother from your hearts for his misdeeds.” **read ›**

174 **Matthew 23:19** You blind fools! For which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? **read ›**

175 **Matthew 23:33** You serpents, you offspring of vipers, how will you escape the judgment of hell? **read ›**

176 **Matthew 25:41** Then he will say also to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels; **read ›**

177 **Mark 9:48** where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. **read ›**

178 **Mark 11:25** Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father, who is in heaven, may also forgive you your transgressions. **read ›**

179 **Mark 13:12** Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. **read ›**

180 **Luke 1:15** For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink. He shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

181 **Luke 3:2** during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness. **read ›**

182 **Luke 17:3** Be careful. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. **read ›**

183 **Acts 5:14** More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. **read ›**

184 **Acts 14:15** saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We too are men of the same nature as you, preaching the gospel to you so that you should turn from these vain things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them; **read ›**

185 **Acts 28:11** After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship that had wintered at the island, with the Twin Brothers as its figurehead. **read ›**

186 **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. **read ›**

187 **Romans 9:7** Nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s seed. But, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” **read ›**

188 **Romans 15:14** I myself am also persuaded about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish others. **read ›**

189 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

190 **Ephesians 4:26** Be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **read ›**

191 **James 1:20** for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. **read ›**

192 **James 3:6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. Thus the tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting the course of life on fire, and itself set on fire by hell. **read ›**

193 **James 4:11** Do not speak against one another, brothers. He who speaks against a brother and judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **read ›**

194 **1 John 3:12** unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and killed his brother. Why did he kill him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s righteous. **read ›**

195 **1 John 3:15** Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *138 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 4:3 · 9:5 · 25:23 · 27:9 · 27:20

Exodus 2:14

Psalms 118:22

Ecclesiastes 7:2

Isaiah 1:18

Ezekiel 18:23

Hosea 6:6

Amos 6:1

Matthew 1:5 · 4:10 · 5:3 · 5:7 · 5:17 · 5:20 · 5:21 · 5:25 · 5:28 · 5:33 · 5:38 · 5:43 · 5:45 · 6:12 · 6:14 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 9:13 · 10:18 · 12:45 · 18:17 · 18:21 · 18:22 · 19:9 · 22:38 · 24:11 · 25:19 · 26:3 · 26:63 · 28:19

Luke 2:51 · 4:27 · 6:20 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 11:13 · 11:26 · 12:57 · 15:3 · 15:10 · 15:11 · 16:16 · 17:1 · 17:4 · 17:11 · 17:14 · 17:15 · 17:17 · 17:19 · 17:20 · 17:21 · 17:26 · 17:32 · 22:16 · 22:67 · 23:34

John 3:6 · 3:13 · 3:14 · 3:15 · 4:12 · 4:22 · 5:16 · 7:24 · 8:44 · 9:31 · 11:25 · 13:34 · 17:3

Acts 2:34 · 3:14 · 7:60 · 9:2 · 17:31 · 19:9 · 20:35 · 23:4

Romans 1:18 · 3:15 · 5:3 · 8:11 · 9:5 · 12:17 · 14:10 · 14:12

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 2:8 · 4:5 · 5:11 · 6:14 · 8:6 · 8:13 · 10:1 · 10:4

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

2 Corinthians 4:14 · 5:10 · 8:21
Ephesians 2:4 · 4:13 · 4:27 · 4:30 · 4:31 · 5:3 · 6:14
Philippians 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:16
2 Thessalonians 3:10
1 Timothy 5:6 · 6:1 · 6:10
Titus 2:5 · 2:13
Hebrews 13:10
James 1:3 · 1:19 · 2:13 · 5:14
1 Peter 1:13 · 1:21 · 3:9 · 3:22
1 John 3:14 · 5:16
Revelation 2:24

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early church teach about anger and reconciliation (Matthew 5:21–26)?” on November 8, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “What did the early church teach about anger and reconciliation (Matthew 5:21–26)?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-church-teach-about-anger-and-reconciliation. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 18.”

© 2026 The Historic Faith. Selection, arrangement and editing by THF; machine-compiled text and public-domain quotations are not claimed. For personal study; please don’t republish.

THEHISTORICFAITH.COM

THE END OF THIS STUDY