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STOP BEING OFFENDED

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ... **James 1:19 NIV**

Gospel: Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger
World: Slow to listen, quick to speak, quick to anger

¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. **James 1:19-20 NLT**

We have to decide when we get angry:

- Do you want to make a point?
- Do you want to make a difference?

³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first

and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **Matthew 22:37-39 NLT**

How do we learn to let go of anger and overcome offenses?

1. Lower your expectations of others.

- We are going to remember that sinners do sinful things.

² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. **2 Timothy 3:2-4 NIV**

2. Raise your gratitude for God’s grace.

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT**

Really angry people have a really hard time making a really big difference.