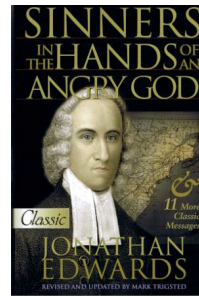
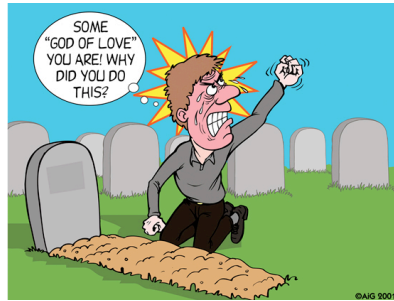


Through a child's eyes

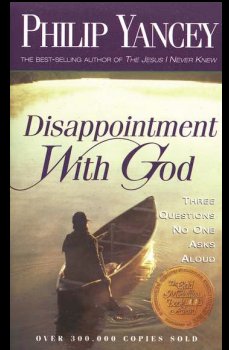
Dear God,  
Thank you for  
the baby brother  
but what I prayed  
for was a puppy  
Joyce

This is not funny!

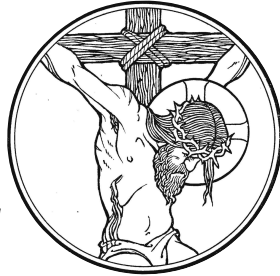


A moralistic culture  
is focused on the  
**anger of God.**

A naturalistic culture  
is focused on our  
**anger at God**



**One part of the  
Cross that our  
generation gets.**



“My God, my God, why have you  
forsaken me? Why are you so far from  
saving me, so far from the words of  
my groaning?” *Psalms 22:1*

## ***The development of anger with God:***

- Step #1 Misplaced heart**
- Step #2 Unrealistic expectations**
- Step #3 Confused experiences**
- Step #4 Apathetic withdrawal**
- Step #5 Hopeless cynicism**
- Step #6 Angry rebellion**

## ***God's Heart is:***

- **fundamental** to His will.
- **contrary** to our sacred cows.
- **responsive** to our choices.
- **frustrating**  
**if it is not installed**  
**in our hearts.**

## ***Jonah 4***

“1 But it greatly displeased Jonah and **he became angry**. 2 He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity. 3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life." 4 The LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"”

### Observations

“<sup>1</sup> But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.”

**God's heart  
not only confuses but angers  
those who do not have it.**

**God's heart not only confuses but angers  
those who do not have it.**

### Why

“<sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.”

#### 1. It feeds our fears.

### Jonah's fears and ours

- ✓ God might not prevent my suffering.
- ✓ God might not promote my success.
- ✓ God might not preserve my idols.
- ✓ God might not protect my image.
- ✓ God might not punish my enemies.



### Implications for us

- God sometimes blesses those who we feel don't deserve it or have gotten away with too much.
- God sometimes uses people that we do not think are fit for service.
- God sometimes teaches us through things and people that we don't respect.
- God sometimes does not seem to follow the Scripture as we interpret it.

**Proverbs** - Life follows God's rules.

**Ecclesiastes** - Life is often confusing.

**Job** - We must trust God's heart at all times.

**Psalms** - a journal of the spiritually healthy

**God's heart not only confuses but angers  
those who do not have it.**

### Why

#### 1. It feeds our fears.

#### 2. It threatens our hopes.

“<sup>3</sup> Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.”

### Implications for us

- Is God enough when my casual and critical longings are not met?
- Does God's heart disappoint, depress, or delight us?

**God's heart not only confuses but angers  
those who do not share it.**

### Why

#### 1. It feeds our fears.

#### 2. It threatens our hopes.

#### 3. It distorts our reason.

“<sup>4</sup> The LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"”

## Jonah's logic is directed by his heart.

### 1. Its not hard to find a verse to support our agenda.

Numbers 14:18

"the Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations."

Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

### 2. Reason is the rudder but the heart is the compass.

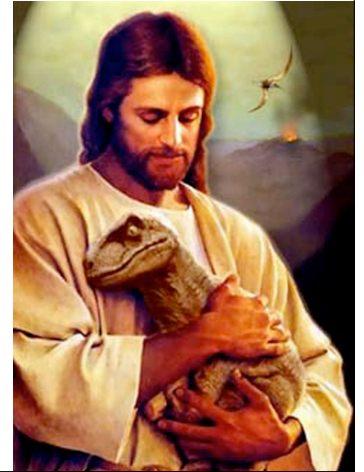
## How can I know God's heart?

Colossians 1:15

"He is the image of the invisible God"

John 1:18

"No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."



## How can I know if God's heart delights me?

1. Am I **slow** to anger, **quick** to forgive, **eager** to bless?
2. Do I know myself, accept myself, **forget about myself**, and **give myself**?
3. Do I really **not care who gets the credit** so long as the right thing is done?
4. When I suffer or lose out can I be **positive** and **thankful**?
5. Am I **easily edified**?
6. When I am knocked down do I **get up** or **give up**?
7. When I am challenged do I **grow antennae** or **horns**?