

Why was God so angry with Job's friends?

(Be careful what you say and think!)

"The LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, 'My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has'" (Job 42:7).

On many occasions, I have observed self-proclaimed Christians commit the same sin as Job's friends, and like Job's friends, they had no idea that they were committing sin at the time. They would do well to study the book of Job, prayerfully asking God to open their eyes to its important teaching.

According to Job 42:7 (above), their basic sin was that they spoke words about God that were not right. Now they did speak many things that were correct, just as many learned Christians tend to do these days. But the essence of their communication insinuated things about God that maligned His character. In their discourse with Job, they were unknowingly being used by Satan to malign God and Job. This same thing happens countless times each day to many who profess to follow Christ. God is grieved. This article briefly examines the root sin behind this grievous problem.

First, it should be noted that every evil word spoken comes from within an evil heart. *"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"* (Matthew 12:34). Therefore, if we desire to prevent evil words from escaping our lips, we must gain control of our thoughts. We need to be in constant prayer asking God for help in this because it can only be accomplished by His Spirit. In addition, Christians have a great advantage because they can learn from the Bible how to think righteous thoughts and recognize evil thoughts that might be lurking within. Hopefully, this article will help some people think righteous thoughts about God and their fellow man. I pray that God helps us to learn how to think righteous thoughts and speak righteous words by using the negative example of Job's friends. May it heighten our vigilance to watch over our hearts that we might avoid their sin.

Their sin against Job:

Even though they had no evidence and in spite of Job's continual pleas, they assumed Job was guilty of thinking and doing evil things. Love always assumes a person is innocent unless he is proven guilty. ([Click here to see my article about this.](#)) To assume a person is guilty of something without evidence is a sin akin to murder. (God hates this sin with intense hatred. Yet, Christians often commit it.)

What makes a person prone to assume a person is guilty? The root sin is pride. It is utterly arrogant to assume a person is guilty (before seeing or hearing evidence) because there is no way you can know that he is indeed guilty, unless of course, you are God Himself. People who assume guilt are acting as if they are God, the only One who actually knows all things. This is extremely arrogant. Any soul who commits it is in grave spiritual danger. (Pride comes before a fall. See Proverbs 16:18.)

Their sin against God:

Job 42:7 (above) seems to specify their most noteworthy sin: *"You have not spoken of Me what is right."* It appears that Job's friends had a very narrow and simplistic understanding of God's chastening work.

Often, I have heard Christians describe God's chastening process using the analogy of a human father taking a child "to the woodshed." Though God's chastening experience may not seem to be joyful when it is happening (Hebrews 12:11), it is always applied by God with great and wonderful purposes. I suggest that to most Christians, the phrase "taking him to the woodshed" usually conveys a very negative and narrow view of chastening more aligned with the word, "punishment," or something having to do with judgment or justice. In this view, the Christian is merely "getting what he deserves." In this narrow and simplistic view, chastening is viewed mainly as punishment or payback, almost reduced to something impersonal like cause and effect.

I suggest that God's main purpose for chastening His children has nothing to do with justice being served because justice for the Christian was fully served on Jesus as He died on the cross. (If Christians got what they deserved in the chastening process, they would simply be cast into hell because that is the punishment each sin deserves.)

It seems that Job's friends had a very narrow, simplistic view of God's chastening process. To them, it was more about Job getting the punishment he deserved for the many sins he had committed (according to their assumptions). Over the years, I have often observed Christians with the same view of God's chastening process. They tend to be the same people that presume people to be guilty rather than innocent.

I encourage people to refrain from having narrow views about God when it comes to His important chastening process. Instead of assuming that a current chastening is payback from God for a specific past sin, you should probably assume that God is in the process of His constant chastening. (God constantly trains His children.) Rather than focusing on a single sin, assume that God is in the process of purifying away vast amounts of corruption. This child training/sanctification process never ends because the corruption of sin is vast (in everyone).

It is presumptuous (unwise) to assume that God is punishing us for some specific sin we committed years **before**.¹ Since we cannot know this for certain, it is safest to assume that God, from a heart of love, is at work to purify us from the vast amounts of corruption that has resulted from sins throughout our past. He is in the process of setting us apart (sanctifying us).

Now it is true that there is an inherent cause and effect relationship principle with sin. (Each sin always produces negative effects.) But if this principle is the main factor that shapes our view of God's chastening process, we will end up with a distorted, simplistic understanding of how God relates to His children. And if we have a distorted view of how God relates to His children, we automatically have a distorted view of God Himself and the gospel.

The Bible instructs us to come into God's presence with boldness because Jesus bore ALL our punishment already, and God accepted His death as full payment for our sins. ([I highly recommend you read my article about this by clicking here.](#)) Holding fast to this gospel truth, let us simply acknowledge that God's purposes for our current chastening are grounded in His deep, deep love for us. He does not take us to some dark and dreary woodshed to whip us into submission. Rather, He draws us into His glorious presence.

Knowing that God is working all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28), I encourage Christians to always remember that God has grand and wonderful purposes for His constant, loving, chastening work.

The book of Job should teach us that we must be very careful what we think about God. Any inaccurate thoughts about God malign Him. And inaccurate thoughts that govern the heart spawn evil words that spread evil thoughts.

Note 1: I included links to two articles that provide important information that supports the portion of the article in which each link is found. Reading the articles referenced in those links will greatly enhance the impact of this article.

Note 2: If a person shows little or no concern whether his current view of God is correct, he has a great lack of reverence. Those who rightly fear God always possess a teachable spirit that earnestly desires God to increasingly correct their thinking.

¹ It is also presumptuous (unwise) to assume that God is punishing someone else for some specific sin they committed years before.