



DATE	October 15, 2017
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Disarming Wrath
SERIES	We've all heard of the seven deadly sins, but they don't have anything to do with us. Or, do they? We often don't realize the subtle impact sin has on our daily lives. We need to learn how to recognize it and know how to fight back.

It is a relatively known idea that humanity likes holding on to anger – even a Greek poet wrote: “’Tis said that wrath is the last thing in a man to grow old.” However, wrath, though subtle and seemingly harmless, robs us of our joy in Christ.

1. God asks both Jonah (Jonah 4:4) and Cain (Genesis 4:3-7), “Why are you angry?” Revisit those passages and examine why Jonah and Cain were angry, both on a superficial and a deeper level.
2. Pastor David specified that there is a distinction between righteous and sinful/unrighteous wrath. What are some examples of righteous anger? Discuss times when righteous anger can turn into sinister wrath. How do we prevent righteous anger from turning into unhealthy wrath?
3. Read the following verses: James 1:19-20, Matthew 5:21-22, Ephesians 4:26-27, and Psalm 37:8-9. What are the effects of unchecked anger? How is it subtle, yet deadly at the same time?
4. Pastor David explains that delayed reconciliation almost always makes everything harder and that time does not heal wounds. Do you agree with this concept? Can you think of a time when you experienced delayed reconciliation and it was harmful? Is there any situation in which time is needed before healing takes place?
5. One of the ways we can disarm wrath is to embrace forgiveness. Read Matthew 6: 9-15, where Jesus instructs us in how we should pray. How many times does he mention forgiveness and why is it so important? Can you recall other verses that show the importance and/or freeing power of forgiveness?
6. Another way we can disarm wrath is to remember the love of Jesus and mimic his ordered love for us. 1 Corinthians 13 describes love in its fullness. Specifically, read 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 and take a self-inventory against each characteristic of love (i.e. “Am I patient?”, “Am I kind?”). How would these characteristics abolish wrath?

The closing question in our sermon asked: What story does your anger tell? Does it tell a story of a good God or an ugly God? Pray this week that God would reveal to you areas in which you can transform the distorted love of wrath into the ordered love God has for us.