

7-28-2019
GOOD AND BAD PROVOCATIONS

TEXT

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Psalms 78:40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!

Psalms 78:41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Introduction:

This morning I want to focus in on this statement let us consider one another "TO PROVOKE ONE ANOTHER".

When we think of provoking someone we usually think of that as being bad, but in Heb. 10:24 the Bible says we can provoke each other for good. But there are more verses in the Bible that warn us not to provoke God or others in a bad way. This morning we are going to look at both uses of the expression and I hope we will choose to provoke one another for good and not bad.

I. GOOD PROVOCATIONS

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Consider what this says, it says that we ought to provoke one another in a good way.

Usually when we say someone provoked me, 90% of the time we think of that word being used in a negative way. The actual word means:

To incite, through disputation, contend, to stir up..

Webster gives this definition of the Word provoke:

1a: to call forth (a feeling, an action, etc.) : evoke provoke laughter

b : to stir up purposely provoke a fight

c : to provide the needed stimulus for will provoke a lot of discussion

2a: to incite to anger

2b: *** archaic : to arouse to a feeling or action

3948[?]paroxusmos, par-ox-oos-mos'; from 3947 ("paroxysm"); incitement (to good), or dispute (in anger):-contention, provoke unto.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

3947[?]paroxuno, par-ox-oo'-no; from 3844 and a der. of 3691; to sharpen alongside, i.e. (fig.) to exasperate:-easily provoke, stir.

The way the word provoke is used in Hebrews 10:24 takes on the meaning the last meaning found in Webster's

"To arouse to a feeling or stir up to action.."

According to the Bible we can provoke people in a good way and we can provoke people in a bad way.

I want to talk to you, first of all, how we can provoke people in a good way. And according to Hebrews 10:24-25 this is the meaning:

When we come to church the Lord wants us to provoke each other in a good way to do good things.

There are two things mentioned in our text but we can probably refer to many other areas:

We are to provoke one another to love and good works.

Seems simple enough and no doubt encompasses everything that we should be doing as believers in the New Testament Church.

Consider how we should provoke one another in a good way!

1. LET US PROVOKE ONE ANOTHER TO LOVE:

How do we do this?

A. FIRST WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT LOVE IS:

Years ago, I thought to myself, if I could just walk in love, and do everything with a spirit of love, then I would know I was in the will of God.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

We have a perfect example of love. Walk in love as Christ also loved us.

We need to be like Christ! Think about Christ and how He manifested His love towards us.

He loved us when we were un-lovable.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

None of us could make it into his Kingdom without His love for us:

Think about what it is to love:

The Bible gives many biblical definitions of love.

The greatest commentary on what love is is found in I Cor. 13:

I Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

I Corinthians 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

I Corinthians 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

I Corinthians 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

I Corinthians 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

I Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Years ago, Bob Snyder was a deacon and an organist in our Church. He also had a wonderful voice and wrote many songs. As I wrote Scripture Choruses, it motivated him to write Scripture songs also. One day I asked him to set I Cor. 13:4-13 to music so we could meditate on it and memorize it. We actually have a copy of this chorus in our Hymnal.

The reason I wanted him to come up with a tune for this song was because I wanted us all to sing it and memorize the characteristics of love.

Think about what the Bible says, love is:

* **Love suffereth long.**.. in other words, does not have a short fuse, so many people you're afraid to talk to because anything can set them off and anger them. This is not love. Love is the opposite of this, it suffers long.

* **Love is Kind:** A person who is Kind is easy, gracious, does and says and acts in a gracious way.

5541[?]chresteuomai, khraste-yoo'-om-ahee; mid. from 5543; to show oneself useful, i.e. act benevolently:-be kind.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

5543[?]chrestos, khrase-tos'; from 5530; employed, i.e. (by impl.) useful (in manner or morals):-better, easy, good (-ness), gracious, kind.

* **Love envieth not:** Do you know that the first murder in the Bible was motivated by envy? Envy is that bad feeling you get when someone else does better than you. God told Cain, you can be accepted if you do what is right. You want to be blessed, do what is right and good.

* **Vaunteth not itself:** Be a Braggart!

The verb vaunt has been used since the 15th century with the meaning "to make a vain display of one's own worth or attainments" - in other words, "to brag or boast." Over time, vaunt developed the meaning "to boast of (something)," as in "the promotional flier vaunts the natural beauty of the area," and gave rise to the adjectival form vaunted. The history of vaunt and vaunted leads back to the Latin word vanus, meaning "vain" or "empty." (The word vain itself is also a descendant of vanus.)

4068[?]perpereuomai, per-per-yoo'-om-ahee; mid. from perperos (braggart;

perh. by redupl. of the base of 4008); to boast:-vaunt itself.

----- Dictionary Trace -----
4008 [?]peran, per'-an; appar. acc. of an obsol. der. of peiro (to "pierce");
through (as adv. or prep.), i.e. across:-beyond, farther (other) side,
over.

* **Is not puffed up:** To be inflated, sense of blowing oneself up.

5448 [?]phusioo, foo-see-o'-o; from 5449 in the prim. sense of blowing; to
inflate, i.e. (fig.) make proud (haughty):-puff up.

* **Does not behave itself unseemly:** To behave in a way that would cause shame or
embarrassment.

808 [?] aschomosune, as-kay-mos-oo'-nay; from 809; an indecency; by impl. the
pudenda:-shame, that which is unseemly.

* **Seeketh not her own:** The Mind of Christ, did He come seeking His own welfare?

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each
esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of
others.

* **Is not easily provoked:** Just the opposite of the person that just flies off the handle and goes
ballistic.

* **Thinks no evil:** A person who is full of love is not always conjuring up evil about people or
think the worst of people.

* **Rejoices not in iniquity:** A person who has the love of God does not think evil or joke about
it.

* **Rejoiceth in truth:** A person full of love will say Amen to the word of God.

* **Beareth all things:**

* **Believeth all things:**

* **Hopeth all things:**

* **Endureth all things:**

Think about that statement all things. Is there anyone or anything that quenches your love?
Love will endure, not lose faith, trust in the Lord, endure trials and difficulties.

Now, as we learned what love is, the question is how do we provoke one another to be these
things and exercise ourselves to these things?

The Bible says, provoke one another to love.

Truth is that we understand more what it is to provoke one another to anger and hate. That is
easy because that is the world we live in.

B. NOW THAT WE UNDERSTAND WHAT LOVE IS, THE QUESTION IS HOW DO WE PROVOKE EACH OTHER TO LOVE?

a. One way we provoke one another to love by example:

When people see the love of Christ in us, this should provoke others to want to love each other more.

Jesus, was the great example of provoking people to love.

*** He did so by witnessing to the woman at the well.**

John 4:27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

*** He did so by forgiving the Samaritans when they did not receive him.**

Luke 9:54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

Luke 9:55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

Luke 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

*** He did so when he forgave the woman taken in adultery.**

*** He did so when He was on the cross and He said Father forgive them.**

b. We provoke people to love with good speech and words:

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

c. *We provoke people to love by exercising biblical principles of reconciliation and forgiveness.*

Leviticus 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Proverbs 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

Talebearers, there is no need to share certain faults about people. We all have faults, but we should only share those things that are necessary to help someone get right.

If there is something that someone does to you, that you do not like or bothers you and you are not willing to share that with that person then keep it to yourself unless it is necessary to tell others to help the situation.

Leviticus 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Following the Bible promotes love.

If someone sins, and does something against you, you need to rebuke them and share their sin or fault with them! Them alone.

Matt. 18 says there is always an appropriate response to a person's faults or sin against you. Paul himself wrote to the church at Corinth: that concerning a certain member that was in sin, they should shun him and discipline him out of the church. However, apparently this person repented and got right. Then Paul says to forgive this person.

II Corinthians 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

II Corinthians 2:5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

II Corinthians 2:6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.

II Corinthians 2:7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

II Corinthians 2:8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.

II Corinthians 2:9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

II Corinthians 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Here we have what is called tough love that worked. Why discipline someone? The goal is not to hurt them but to help them and to bring them to repentance.

AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO BRING REPENTANCE:

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Matthew 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Matthew 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Following the Bible promotes biblical love in the church.

When you do what the Bible says, you will promote and provoke people to proper biblical love!

Forgiveness, kindness, and forbearance towards each other is promoting LOVE.

d. Certain people have a gift to showing mercy and love. They become the provokers of love in the assembly.

Jack McKeeby was an example to all of us of love.

Anna Jones was an example of love.

There have been others who just had a way about them that made you sense the love of God in their lives and they promoted love in the church. We need more people like them.

e. We provoke love in the church by helping others in need:

I John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

I John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

I John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Now we provoke each other to love one another by doing for each other. Let us love one another for love is of God.

WE PROMOTE LOVE BY OUR GOOD WORKS.

2. WE NEED TO BE PROVOKED TO GOOD WORKS:

Question is: WHAT GOOD WORKS?

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

A. AGAIN JESUS WAS AN EXAMPLE OF ONE WHO DID GOOD WORKS:

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

NO ONE NO ONE CAN ARGUE AGAINST THOSE WHO DO GOOD WORKS!

What good works did Jesus do?

He gave what he could.

HE HEALED PEOPLE.
HE PREACHED THE GOSPEL.
HE RAISED THE DEAD.

B. NOTE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS GOOD WORKS CONSIST OF:

I like what Peter said,

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Acts 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Look, Peter said it, he gave what he had, which was far better than what we have, yet the principle is this: Do good with what you have.

When you do good with what you have you are doing a good work.

It's the job of the church to provoke to do good works.

When we went to help Mrs. Vucish with her house our men did a good work.

When we visit people in the nursing home we do a good work.

What are good works.

- * Giving.
- * Helping others.
- * Visiting.
- * Witnessing to others.
- * Working with your hands and giving to others.

Acts 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

Acts 9:37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

Acts 9:38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

Acts 9:39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

*** VISITING OTHERS WHO CANNOT DO FOR THEMSELVES.**

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

I Timothy 5:9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,

I Timothy 5:10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

*** GIVING AND DISTRIBUTING TO THE MINISTRY OF LORD.**

I Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
I Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;
I Timothy 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

*** BASICALLY GOOD WORKS ARE PUTTING INTO ACTION THE LOVE WE SHOULD HAVE:**

FOR OUR BROTHER IN CHRIST.

C. CONSIDER HOW DO WE PROVOKE OTHERS OF GOOD WORKS?

a. WE NEED TO BE EXAMPLES OF DOING GOOD:

II Thessalonians 3:7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;
II Thessalonians 3:8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:
II Thessalonians 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.
II Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.
II Thessalonians 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.
II Thessalonians 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.
II Thessalonians 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.
II Thessalonians 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.
II Thessalonians 3:15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

b. WE ARE PROVOKED TO GOOD WORKS BY TEACHING AND PREACHING WHAT TO DO.

Paul commanded the church to give..

I Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.
I Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.
I Corinthians 16:3 And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.
I Corinthians 16:4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

c. WE ARE PROVOKED TO GOOD WORKS BY ADMINISTRATING THE CHURCH TO DO GOOD WORKS.

Note what Paul said: upon the first day of the week take the offering and do it before I come. So he commanded the church to administrate this good work of giving in an orderly fashion.

The church was provoked to good works when they assembled by organizing and administrating the collection for the needy saints in Jerusalem.

We provoke people to good works when we support missionaries.

We provoke people to good works when we take collections for needy people.

d. THE EARLY CHURCH ADMINISTRATED THE MINISTRY OF TAKING CARE OF WIDOWS.

The Church provided relief for widows, not Rome or the government.

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

Acts 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

c. THERE IS A WHOLE BOOK IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITTEN TO PROVOKE ONE OF GOD'S SAINTS TO GOOD WORKS.

In the book of Philemon, Paul writes to convince Philemon to forgive Onesimus and receive him back.

Philemon 1:10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

Philemon 1:11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

Philemon 1:12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

Philemon 1:13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

Philemon 1:14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

Philemon 1:15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

Conclusions:

We need to administer our church in such a manner that we could encourage people to do good works. I have some ideas on how to do this.

Paul provoked the church to do good works.

Read I John. In the Epistle of John, John encourages his readers to love one another

James said this:

James 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,
James 2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;
notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Words are cheap, James said. We need action!

I am talking to David Rodrigues, about redoing all our church literature so that we have presentable tracts. I am thinking we should constantly be reminding one another to be sharing our faith.

I think it would be good to give a report each week about visits we make to shut ins. I just found out that Al & May Miller are in a Nursing Home in Scranton, it would be good to send them a card, visit them. We have Linda McKeeby in a nursing home.

Sometimes we just need a reminder of doing a good work. We get side tracked. The world gets us flustered and frustrated and because of the evil that abounds our love waxes cold.

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

The church is supposed to be a furnace to ignite us and provoke us to love and good works.

Do you know I wrote a little tract, the THANK YOU tract and do you know how many times I myself forget to carry these little tracts so when I leave a tip at a restaurant I forget to leave the little tract with the tip.

Everything is cold today. We pay with a credit card. COLD.
We ignore people and communicate with text messages. COLD.

Let us read our text one last time:

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Where else but in God's church are you going to be provoked to love and good works? This is our purpose. Let's go out of this place fulfilling this command. Our lives need to be filled with love and good works.

Basically memorize the characteristics of love and put these characteristics into action in your speech, and in your every day actions and dealings with people. This is love!

Secondly good works are putting love into action. How could you say you love your brother and then not give them or help them with that need that they have?

Do you realize Jesus even loved the unlovable:

Consider John 3:16, he died for our sins not our sins only, but the sins of the whole world. On the cross he said "FATHER FORGIVE THEM THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.. " That was the ultimate manifestation of love. Go down through I Cor. 13 and you will see Jesus in that chapter.

EVENING MESSAGE

II. EVIL PROVOCATIONS

More often we use the word to provoke to connote the idea of invoking someone to anger or into doing something bad.

Like we might say so and so provoked him to anger. This is usually what we think of when we think of the word provoke. It is rare to use the word in a good way. But Heb 10:24-25 does.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Tonight I want to talk about times we should not provoke people in a bad way.

1. CONSIDER THE WARNING TO PARENTS:

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

Disciplining our children in the wrong way is what it means to provoke your children to wrath.

We need to discipline our children in such a manner that they know that when we spank them or correct them, we are doing it for their good and not just because we were inconvenienced or annoyed. Sometimes parents make no sense at all as to why they get angry at their children.

The most important thing a parent can do for their children is to represent God to them. In other words, God is referred to as OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. Before a child gets to come to know the Lord he comes to know his parent!

If a child's parent is flakey, flies off the handle, and they never know when they're going to be smacked in the head for no logical reason, then they are probably going to grow up with a warped concept of God.

2. WHAT IS IT TO PROVOKE OUR CHILDREN TO WRATH?

Basically when we act a certain way, or say things and do things that our children perceive as wrong or unjust, we in essence prod them to get angry at us and provoke them to wrath.

The best book I have ever read on child training is a book by Richard Fugate. "What the Bible says about child training".

We had it in our bookstore, I am not sure if it is still there. I would encourage every parent to read that book and study it well. What the world considers good child training is producing a generation of misfits and extreme liberal radicals, and misfits.

We have a generation that has no fear of God and no fear of human authority. This is why our jails are overloaded. Today the mental health facilities and our legal system is so maxed out that they send people out on the streets that should not be there. The system does what is best for it, not society or even the patient themselves.

3. WE CAN PROVOKE GOD TO WRATH THROUGH OUR REBELLION AND DISOBEDIENCE.

27 Times the expression "Provoke to anger" appears in the Bible. Each time it has a negative connotation, and all but a few references refers to provoking God to anger by rebellion and sin and idolatry.

Psalms 78:40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!
Psalms 78:41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Ezekiel 16:26 Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger.

Job 12:6 The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth abundantly.

We can anger God by our actions and God can respond accordingly:

We have removed from our minds the idea that we have a God that can become angry at our wicked deeds and actions.

The reason for this is that it is hard in our minds to harmonize a God of love with a God of anger and wrath and Judgment. We only get to hear one side of the story. We like hearing about God's love but we whitewash God's judgment to the point that we think He does not judge.

The point is that when we do not respond to God's longsuffering and love appropriately we become recipients of His wrath.

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

Romans 2:2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

Romans 2:3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Romans 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Romans 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

When men do not receive the Love of God and they despise His goodness then they become recipients of His wrath.

God is longsuffering, but long means just that. God restrains His judgment hoping to give us time to repent. But there comes an end to His patience.

* **God is provoked to anger by our wickedness.**

Psalms 7:10 My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.

Psalms 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

* **God will someday come and bring judgment to this world.**

In the end times God is going to pour out His wrath and this planet.

Revelation 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Apparently all that we see with this wicked world is leading up to that day.

III. Conclusion

There can be provocations for God or for bad.

The church ought to be a place where we are provoked to do good. However, when we get in the flesh and sin, then we provoke people to anger and we provoke God to anger.

We want to make the assembly a place where we are provoked to love and good works. But the only way that can happen is if we walk in the spirit and not in the flesh.

Galatians gives the contrast

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

This is the goal of the Lord for us all. We need to decide which way we will seek to be provoked and provoke others.