

Anger's Price
Proverbs 19:18-20
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If, because of anger that's out of control, you break your neighbor's nose or ram your car into a tree, you'll probably have to pay for it and the cost may be higher than you care to pay. If the price *is* high, you will likely think twice and keep your anger in check before doing it again. But, sometimes the obvious and immediate price proves not to be a real deterrent. When? Well, when your neighbor is a wimp (or maybe he was just "turning the other cheek") and when your father is rich enough and foolish enough to replace your car.

However a person views or values the obvious price, there is a greater price which must always be paid in this life. It cannot be escaped. It cannot be excused by a kindly neighbor nor can it be paid by someone else. If you allow your anger to go unchecked, my friend, it will definitely cost you. There are no exceptions. What *is* this price? It is perpetuation of an undisciplined life and loss of wisdom. So says Proverbs 19:18-20. Notice:

"Discipline your son while there is hope.
And do not desire his death.
A man of great anger shall bear the penalty,
For if you rescue him, you will only have to do it again.
Listen to counsel and accept discipline,
That you may be wise the rest of your days."

Solomon's wisdom came from God, the Creator of human kind, the One who knows best how to deal with children, the One who understands good parenting more than all the highly educated and currently popular family counselors. What did Solomon say? Discipline. Do it early while hope still lives.

Hope for *what*? Actually, a life of discipline is fundamental to almost any hope: hope for a contented, happy life; hope for good relationships with others; hope for more effective and acceptable service in the kingdom of Christ; and finally, hope for eternal glory. But, Solomon here is arguing for acquisition of wisdom. Discipline must be accomplished while there is still hope to acquire wisdom. There is no other way. Wisdom refuses to dwell in an undisciplined life. Look at verse 20. The reason given for disciplining is that the rest of life, that is, life after becoming disciplined, may be wise.

Opportunities to burst forth in all your angry "glory" are opportunities to discipline your life. Solomon put it this way, "Listen to counsel and accept..." thus focusing on the role of human will in accepting or rejecting discipline. It is a matter of individual choice. The carrot waiting at the end of the right choice is "that you may be wise the rest of your days". That's certainly worth investing in early in life.