

ANGER

Anger occurs when our desires (whether unrighteous desires or righteous desires) have not been met. The loss of those desires causes a grievous displeasure that can be manifested in various ways. Although anger can be *righteous* (Eph. 4:26), we most often have and thus display *unrighteous* anger. Unrighteous anger is usually accompanied by pride and selfishness. Contrary to anger are meekness, self-control, peace, and patience.

ANGER in the heart says things such as . . .

"I have a bad attitude."

"I am not getting what I want."

"I am bummed, grumpy, irritated, disappointed, or frustrated."

BITTERNESS

"I want others to suffer for their wrongs against me."

BITTERNESS in the heart says things such as . . .

"I hate them."

"God has done wrong to me."

"I can't get over this . . ."

Bitterness is a form of anger toward God and others that brings despair of soul. It is a hatred of others and a lack of forgiveness of their wrongs, whether those wrongs are real or perceived. Our bitterness grieves that situations have not been made "right," according to our own expectations. Bitterness causes us to miss out on God's grace in daily life, and it spreads trouble to others (Heb. 12:15). Contrary to bitterness is joy, love, and meekness.

ANXIETY

Anxiety is worry. It is a care or concern for something to the extent that it disturbs or troubles our soul. It is taking thought to something so much that it encumbers our mind. Anxiety causes fear, sorrow, fretting, and dread because we believe that God will not care for our situation appropriately.

"I can't stop thinking about it."

"I am stressed out!"

"God is not taking care of this the right way."

ANXIETY in the heart says things such as . . .

DESPAIR

DESPAIR in the heart says things such as . . .

"God cannot help me."

"My situation is hopeless."

"I cannot go on."

"God is doing wrong to me."

Despair is a state of complete hopelessness that fails to have a biblical, eternal perspective. Despair is a fixation upon earthly, temporal situations that causes a downcast spirit and utter discouragement. It is the sin of unbelief in the fact that God always acts and assists in a way that is for our absolute good and total benefit. Contrary to despair is the faith and confidence in God's sovereign goodness that leads to joyful hope and patient endurance.

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ENVY

Envy is pain and grief that is felt when we observe another's good or happiness. Envy often manifests itself in anger and contention toward others, wanting to cause harm to their good. Envy usually occurs in conjunction with the sins of greed, pride, and selfishness. It is a lack of contentment that robs us of joy, delight in God, and thankfulness.

ENVY in the heart says things such as . . .

"I just hate them!"

"I hate that others have good things and are happy."

"I would be happy if I had what someone else has."

FEAR

Sinful fear is similar to anxiety and worry in that it is a troubling of our soul. Sinful fear leads to disobedience of God's commands because it can paralyze us to inaction or cause us to seek our own solutions outside of God's ways. Contrary to fear are confidence and trust in the person of God that leads to obedience to His Word.

"God let things get out of control."

"I have to escape this situation."

"I can't obey God because I have to protect myself."

FEAR in the heart says things such as . . .

FEAR OF MAN

"I am more concerned with what others think of me than doing what God says is right."

FEAR OF MAN in the heart says things such as . . .

"I want to please people so they like me."

"I want recognition and attention from others."

Fear of man is the anxiety of being rejected. It is when we strive to gain favor and acceptance from others, or are overly concerned about what others think of us. Fear of man is a self-serving and self-exalting pride which robs the glory that is God's alone. Guile and envy often accompany this sin. Contrary to fear of man are humility, fear of God, goodness, kindness, and love.

GREED

GREED in the heart says things such as . . .

"I want more."

"I am not content with what I have."

"Having more will satisfy."

Greed, or covetousness, comes from two different Greek words: one meaning "more," and the other "to have." Greed is the craving to have more; it is synonymous with evil desire and lust. It is a strong craving to increase fleshly pleasures or to satisfy ourselves with earthly goods rather than eternal treasures. Covetousness leads to other sins, including envy and guile. Contrary to greed are contentment and thankfulness, which are satisfied in God alone.

GUILE

Guile is from the Greek word *dólos*, which means “to bait.” This word means to scam, scheme, lie, and deceive. Guile is a sly deviousness in which we manipulate and seek to cover our true motives and behavior. It is often accompanied by sins such as selfishness, greed, and fear of man. Contrary to guile are fear of God, humility, and love.

GUILE in the heart says things such as . . .

“I don’t want to tell the whole truth.”

“I scheme and deceive to hide my true desires.”

“I will manipulate others to get what I want.”

LAZINESS

To be lazy is to be slack, idle, and slothful. Laziness is a failure of responsibility and diligence. It is a form of selfishness that serves the desires of the sinful flesh and fails to consider both the interests of others and the consequences in the future. Contrary to laziness is faithfulness and good works.

“I don’t want to do what I know I am supposed to do.”

“I don’t want to be diligent.”

“I will just do whatever I want.”

LAZINESS in the heart says things such as . . .

PRIDE

“My way is always right; others are wrong.”

PRIDE in the heart says things such as . . .

“I want attention and recognition.”

“I have a right to . . .”

“I am better than others.”

Pride is very likely the foundation of all other sins. It is a high view of our own worth, opinions, and abilities. It is self-worship in which we exalt ourselves above God’s person and purposes. Pride is also a sin against people because it is a failure to love and serve them. Contrary to pride are humility, meekness, goodness, kindness, and love.

SELFISHNESS

SELFISHNESS in the heart says things such as . . .

“I have to look out for what I want and need.”

“What I want is more important than the needs of others.”

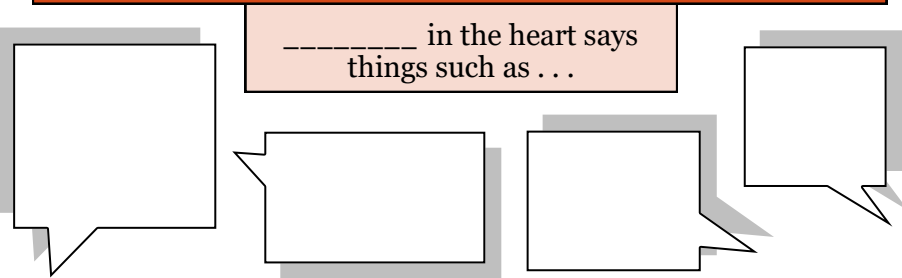
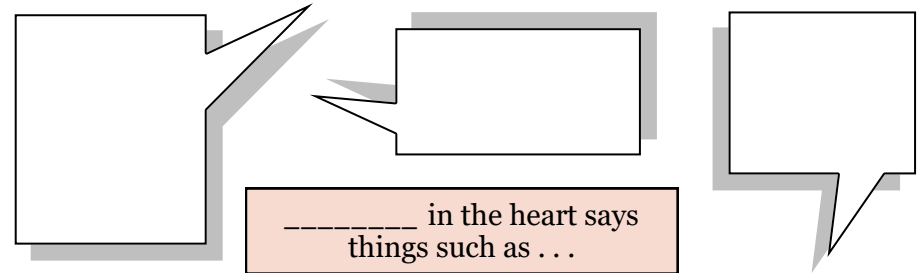
“I want what I want—when and how I want it.”

Selfishness is loving our own life so much that there is a lack of love and service toward God and others. It is an active pursuit of self-satisfaction and pleasure that ignores the needs and interests of others.

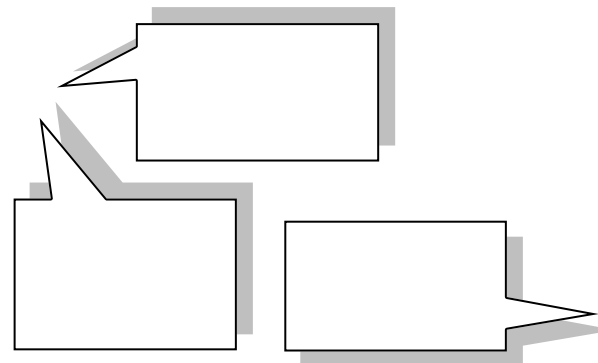
Selfishness robs us of thankfulness and also the ability for self-control. Contrary to selfishness are humility, love, kindness, and goodness.

SINFUL ROOTS CARDS

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things such as ...



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