

Dangerous Men of the Bible

David: Aggression Tamed

Aggression. The images associated with the word speak volumes ... negative volumes. Aggression is a reflection of everything that is wrong and bad and sinful and evil with men. The idea of aggression has been so vilified that many hymnals have been purged of any songs that suggest its promotion. But believe it or not, aggression is a God-given, God-endowed gift to humanity, and especially to men. It's another biological reality that we have to deal with ... but how?

1 Samuel 13:11–15

1. A man after God's own heart isn't about being _____; it's about being _____.
2. Aggression can be _____: you can _____ the wild beast within you.
3. _____ is having the power and _____ you have the power, but refraining from using it unwisely.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll participate in the SPIRIT event (Sep 14, 8–3)
- I'll stop being helpless ... I'll step up and step out
- I'll channel my aggression into productive action

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Dangerous Men of the Bible: David

Scripture: 1 Samuel 13:5–15

Introduction: The Incredible Hulk. Rambo. Wile E. Coyote. Charlie Sheen. All males with serious anger issues. Of course, anger and acting out isn't a uniquely masculine trait, but it certainly seems to be exasperated in the male species. Paul wrote that when we're angry, we ought not sin, but there's no admonition against getting angry – it's as if anger is as much a part of life as breathing. Is it possible that anger and aggression are God-given emotions? Could they be useful – even helpful – when harnessed for godly aims?

1. What kinds of thoughts do you have when you hear the word anger? Aggression? Competition?
2. Describe what you think the world might be like today if anger, aggression, and competition never existed? What would be better? What would be missing?
3. Read 1 Samuel 13:5–15. Why do you think Saul was in such a hurry to step in to do the sacrifice?
4. Samuel implied that Saul was not a man after God's own heart. What makes a person someone who is "after God's own heart"?
5. Read 1 Samuel 24:2–7 and 1 Samuel 26:5–11. David was a mighty warrior and had slayed Goliath – his aggression was renowned. In addition, Saul was actively hunting for David in order to put him to death. Given that, why do you think David chose not to put Saul to death?
6. David harnessed his aggression and accomplished a number of great things during his reign. Read the article at <http://bit.ly/DavidsAccomplishments>. What positives in the modern era have you seen come from harnessed aggression?
7. What "problem" do you see that you could tackle by harnessing your anger or aggression?

Next Week: *Dangerous Men of the Bible – Yeshua: The Ultimate Challenge*

Who will you be inviting to worship with you this week?