

## **Protective Anger**

A Two-Minute Thought by Eric

I read the news and see stories about how a parent abuses their child. Stories about infants being suffocated by a parent. Stories about a two-year-old being sexually abused by a parent or someone else. Stories about a spouse retaliating against the other spouse by killing their child(ren).

Ten years ago, these stories would have still upset me, but not to the extent that they do now. My wife and I have a two-year-old who is the most wonderful thing that has ever been given to us. He is perfect in every way, despite the occasional “testing” and fit-throwing. We could not have asked for a more beautiful boy and we clearly did nothing to deserve him. Simply put, God showed His grace by bringing him to us. He is honest, helpless, innocent, and fragile – even when he is being “bad”.

So now when I hear these stories, they hit a lot closer to home since we have a young child. By observing our child, it's easier to imagine what these children must have gone through. And that disturbs me greatly. What I cannot imagine is something like that happening to my boy. Writing this, I find myself getting angry at the thought of someone else abusing my son. And I don't know what I would do if that happened. Part of me thinks I would be able to remain composed, turn it over to God, and forgive that person. Another part of me thinks I would want a swift and painful retaliation and hope that God would forgive me for wanting to inflict the same pain that was inflicted on my helpless child.

And that brings me to this: I don't know how God does it. How does He deal with the anger? How does He deal with watching these situations unfold? How does He cope with the abuse and the unfairness to the innocent child? There is a lot we don't know about God, but what we do know is this: He is loving and forgiving. He is not immune to disappointment and anger. He is just. And He promised not to destroy the world again by flood - despite our wickedness.

We will all be judged at the end of all things. And how we act and react today plays a big part in our growth as a Christian. It is not a sin to be angry or upset. But if we choose to act on that anger in a way that does not align with how God says we should act, then we are obviously in dangerous territory. Our human-ness wants to get even. But God wants us to bring these things to Him. Remember: He watched as the world tortured and crucified His son. He has the experience and ability to help us deal with these things. He can help us get to the place where we need to be. It's always easier said than done. But, somehow, we need to let Him.