

## The Merciful Life, Part 3 | withhold clamor

**I. What is Clamor?**

- According to Merriam-Webster, the noun refers to “noisy shouting” and “a loud continuous noise.”
- On the other hand, the verb means “to make a din, to become loudly insistent, to utter or proclaim,” and “to influence by means of clamor.” This is clearly about volume.
- The Greek word translated clamor in Ephesians 4:31 shows up six times in the new testament, and most of the time it’s translated “cry,” “cries,” or “crying.” It refers to a shouting or yelling or calling, a tumultuous outcry. And — interestingly enough — most of the uses refer to something positive. For example, Luke 1:42 tells us Elizabeth’s response when the pregnant Mary approaches her house, “*And she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!’*”
- But when this word is used to describe an angry attack, it takes on a whole different feel. Acts 23:6-10 shows clamor in action.
- Sometimes we can glorify God by raising our voices, and sometimes we are sinning. In the Ephesians 4:31 passage, it is clear that this yelling is sinful, and it must be put away from us. So, what makes sinful clamor different from righteous crying? The key is recognizing that the heart of the matter is a matter of the heart.
- A clamorous person wants to selfishly manipulate someone with overpowering volume.

**II. How Do you Stop Clamoring?**

- **The first step is to determine why you’re yelling.**
  - Because of our jobs, we may have to raise our voices to be heard above the din, we may have to get people’s attention and there was no other way to do it. But the vast majority of our clamor is likely because we’re upset about something. And that’s how we can start to understand our true heart.
  - The Bible repeatedly commands all believers to be joyful, content, peaceful, and thankful. If I can raise my voice in joy, peace, contentment, and gratitude, it’s completely okay.
  - But if I’m not at thankful for the situation, I won’t be content, I’m not going to experience the peace that passes all understanding, and I definitely won’t be joyful. And if I’m raising my voice in situations like that . . . no doubt there is sin involved.
  - Another way to rightly judge yourself is to see what it takes to lower your voice. Generally speaking, clamorous people won’t relent until they get you to understand their side. If you won’t lower your voice until everyone submits to you by agreeing with you or doing what you want . . . that’s clamor.
  - And the worst forms of clamor often don’t stop yelling even after they get what they want. They’re so angry and self-worshipping that they keep yelling even though everyone has gotten in line and submitted.
  - Once we understand why we’re raising our voices, we need to submit our communication to Scripture.
- **We need to communicate Truth.**
  - People get angry because they’ve lied to themselves. In their tirade, clamorous people are likely going to say something that’s not true.
  - Since communication cannot happen unless we’re all speaking truth, when something is said that is a lie (intentional or not), we really can’t move forward until we address it.
  - If we only ever spoke truth, we would lose many of our excuses for raising our voices.
  - But what about all the people who scream and shout all the while saying things that are true?

- **We need to communicate Truth in love.**
  - God commands us to be humble, patient, kind, and forgiving.
  - It's kind of hard to imagine most shouting falling within those parameters. It can happen, but the vast majority of our yelling would cease if we were humble, patient, kind, and forgiving. As we submit to God's expectations for communication, our volume will usually fall.
  - Consider your malicious and slanderous streaks. Those too will shrivel up in the light of joy, peace, contentment, gratitude, humility, patience, kindness, and forgiveness.
  - Once we determine the heart of our yelling, we need to submit to the truth of God and the love of God for the glory of God.
- **We need to communicate for God's glory.**
  - I Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 1:18; Isaiah 5:8-17
  - God deserves first place in all of your communication.
  - Clamor doesn't communicate. Clamor manipulates, clamor violates, but clamor doesn't communicate.
  - God condemns those who are greedy. God also condemns those who seek satisfaction and pleasure outside of Him and His will. And He condemns those whose uproars may be one of anger or they may be one of wicked delight, but God clearly explains that Hell is their final destination if they continue in their sin.
  - Instead of being humbled by God, we need to humble ourselves before God. We must exalt Him to His rightful place and remove ourselves from the throne of our lives.
- **Two Important Truths.**
  - The Holy Spirit has the power to change anyone if they submit to Him. However . . .
  - Most people need assistance and accountability in putting off life-dominating sin.
    - It's a hard journey. Our flesh is stronger and more wicked than we realize, and too often our attempts are made in our own power, and we fail, and we flounder in moments of victory and seasons of sin over and over.
    - Please get biblical help.
    - Find a mature follower of Christ who knows the Bible and can teach you, reprove you, correct you, and train you. Invite them to participate in your sanctification. Let them know that you have been learning just how unmerciful you are, but you recognize that your merciless responses are an affront to God and others, and you would like them to keep you accountable and help you change.