

# DEVOTION

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## Road rage

### read

“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:5).

### reflect

It's Sunday morning, and you're on your way to church. Maybe you slept too late and didn't get to enjoy your very necessary Sunday morning cup of coffee. You frantically tried to assemble a nice outfit in a half-asleep haze, pulled a comb through your hair and got halfway to your car before you remembered to brush your teeth.

You're already not in the best mood. You turn up the radio to try to wake yourself up and may or may not speed down the highway.

You get off at your exit and try to merge into oncoming traffic. It's your turn, but the other car just won't let you in. So, you do the “right” thing and merge in front of them anyway.

A glance in your rearview mirror reveals a seething driver, giving you the finger.

What do you do?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 80% of all drivers experience some type of “road rage” during the year. More than 60% of all highway accidents are caused by aggressive driving.

I'll admit, driving down I-265 has made my road rage rear its ugly head more than once.

But what is it about driving that makes people so easily frustrated?

Maybe the lack of control we have when we're stuck

in traffic makes us anxious. Maybe being stuck behind a deliberately slow driver tests our patience. Maybe that driver that cut you off brings out your “righteous” anger.

Whatever it is, we've all experienced some form of injustice, whether real or perceived, both on the road and off.

Life is full of injustice, and people who cut you off in traffic are just one example.

But there is one Person who faced inconceivable injustice and, rather than lash out in anger, hide in anxiety or rush in impatience, chose to give grace.

The day Jesus died, Jews and Roman soldiers spit in his face. They mocked and insulted Him. The soldiers beat Him, then stripped Him of His clothes and played the lottery for them. He was nailed to a cross and bore the weight of every sin He never committed and didn't deserve.

And I get upset in traffic.

There are so many small things in life that cause me to be angry, impatient, demanding or worrisome. Sometimes they are things that are unjust. Things that, seemingly, I have every right to exercise my own justice about.

But Scripture tells a different story.

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dear-

ly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity” (Colossians 3:12-14).

“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:16-21).



*Bailey Foxworth is assistant editor of The Southeast Outlook.*

### respond

► Are there times when you know you are prone to become impatient or angry? How can you choose compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience instead?

► Who can you go out of your way to show Christ's love to today?

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