

The Vine Committee

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Fund Raising Dinner

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**Brother
Martin
Writes**

I woke up at 4:00 am to the sound of thunder. I did not get off the bed but laid there and uttered a prayer for the rain to stop. I am sure many of you did too because we were going to have the Fund Raising Dinner that very evening. Finally

when I did get up, the weather was fine throughout the day. There was a disturbing sound of thunder at around 4:00 pm but there was no rain throughout the evening. This made the logistics of parking and dropping off passengers much easier. The next Saturday, it was raining almost the whole day. Thank God for the rain at the right time because we need the water as our water resources in Johor is running low.

Speaking of logistics, in the place where I work, we use a methodology called RCFA, acronym for Root Cause Failure Analysis to determine the cause of the problem. We started using this methodology about 3 to 4 years ago, so is it a new

methodology?

In Genesis 4:7, *“The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you **angry**, and why has your face fallen? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”* Sin was the root cause that caused Cain to murder Abel. In fact all our problems can be traced back to Adam & Eve’s sin. Our perfect world started breaking down since that day.

For example the root cause of murder is hate. 1John 3:15 states: *“Anyone who **hates** a brother or sister is a murderer”* and in Matthew 5:20-22 Jesus said, *“For I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. You have heard that it was said to the ancients, ‘Do not murder,’ and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is **angry** with his brother will be subject to judgment.”*

I spoke to someone and she was incredulous that a simple thing like anger can be equated to murder. I am sure that we have all felt anger about someone but we do not believe ourselves to be murderers. The FBI BAU will profile a suspect whether the motivation for the crime was that of power reassurance or assertiveness or **anger** in a retaliatory or excitational way. That is to say, the observations raised will look to answer whether the offender

could be a serial psychosexual sadistic killer or if the crime was one of passion or revenge.

How does anger make you a murderer? *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.* Ephesians 4:26-27. It gives the devil an opportunity to turn anger into hate and hate to revenge and then finally murder. Anger also becomes sin when the angry one refuses to be pacified, holds a grudge, or keeps it all inside. However the verse also gives advise on how to deal with anger. It says, “do not let the sun go down on your anger” which I take to mean let go of your anger before the end of the day. But Jesus says, “*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*” Matthew 5:44. As my care group member would say, “It is all about Love. If you have love you would not do evil to anyone.”

Indeed when we read the news of children playing and telling each other if you want to be my friend, you cannot be his friend or else I melt down your toys. If this anger is not pacified, it can lead to serious consequences.

I hope my friends that you will not harbour your anger and force people to take sides and split the fellowship asunder.

Here is my RCFA table of the 10 Commandments and the 7 Deadly Sins:

Commandment	7 Deadly Sins
Honor your father and your mother	Pride
You shall not murder	Wrath
You shall not commit adultery	Lust
You shall not steal	Greed; Sloth
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor	Envy
You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.	Gluttony

I may be wrong in my Root Cause Failure Analysis but I suggest we avoid the 7 deadly sins which can lead to breaking the 10 Commandments.

*“Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that **the fear of God** will be with you to keep you from sinning.”* Exodus 20:20

Martin Cheah