

The next ingredient is very important: Good Temper. "Love is not easily provoked." Nothing could be more striking than to find this here. We are inclined to look upon bad temper as a very harmless weakness. We speak of it as a mere infirmity of nature, a family failing, a matter of temperament; not a thing to take into serious account in estimating a man's character. And yet here, right in the heart of this analysis of love, it finds a place; and the Bible again and again returns to condemn it as one of the most destructive elements in human nature. The peculiarity of ill temper is that it is the vice of the virtuous. It is often a blot on an otherwise noble character. You know men who are all but perfect, and women who will be entirely perfect, but for an easily ruffled quick-tempered or 'touchy' disposition. This compatibility of ill temper and high moral character is one of the strangest and saddest problems of ethics. The truth is that there are two great classes of sins - sins of the body and the sins of disposition. The Prodigal son may be taken as a type of the first, the Elder Brother of the second. Now the society has no doubt whatever as to which of these is the worse. Its brand falls without a challenge, upon the Prodigal. But are we right? We have no balance to weigh one another's sins, and a courser or finer are but human words; but faults in the higher nature may be less venial than those on the lower, and to the eye of Him who is love, a sin against love may seem a hundred times more base. No form of vice, not worldliness, not greed of gold, not drunkenness does more harm to an unchristianized society than evil temper. For embittering life, for breaking up communities, for destroying the most sacred relationships, for devastating homes, for withering up men and women, for taking the bloom off childhood; in short for sheer gratuitous misery-producing power, this influence stands alone. Jealousy, anger, pride, uncharity, cruelty, self-righteousness, touchiness, doggedness, sullenness—in various proportions - are the ingredients of all ill temper. Judge if such sins of the disposition

are not worse to live in, and for others to live with, than sins of the body. There is really no place in heaven for a disposition like this. A man with such a mood could only make heaven miserable for all the people in it.

### Questions

1. What is the popular notion about "bad temper"? (4)
2. How is bad temper "the vice of the virtuous"? (4)
3. Which class of sins is worse, and why: sins of body or sins of the disposition? (4)
4. Mention some evils of bad temper. (4)
5. Why, according to the author, will there be no place in Heaven for bad-tempered folk? (4)

# Comprehension

## Question: 01

What is the popular notion about "bad temper"?

## Answer:

The most popular notion about "bad temper" is that it is considered as nominal flaw of human nature rather a major defect of human character. Mostly "bad temper" is considered to be the outcome of family failing or other matters.

## Question: 02

How is bad temper "the vice of the virtuous"?

## Answer:

Bad temper hides an individual noble character. Both men and women are victim of this character flaw, who are ill-temper and have great moral character. This is the most heart wrenching problem of ethics.

### Question: 03

Which class of sins is worse, and why: sins of body or sins of the disposition?

### Answer:

The sin of disposition is considered as worse sin because it vanishes love from people's heart. It causes intense harm to the society than any other kind of sin. Bad temper is disliked by every individual than the sin of the body.

### Question: 04

Mention some evils of bad temper.

### Answer:

"Bad temper" has its evils i.e. it brings conflict in the society and separates many families from one another. Moreover, it spreads jealousy and unrest in the society. It vanishes happy memories of a child from childhood.

## Question: 05

Why, according to the author, will there be no place in heaven for bad-tempered folk?

## Answer:

According to the author, there will be no place in heaven for bad-tempered folk because they will make miserable for others due to their ill-behaviour.

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