



BURNING ROAD RAGE DOWN

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You and I have heard about it one way or the other. How road rage is the top cause of many auto accidents. A furious driver is a dangerous person, and anyone who happens to cross his path is well advised not to attempt to do so at that point. An angry driver poses risks not only to himself but to others on the road.

Driving can be a tedious job in itself, but having to manage your anger at someone on the road can be a huge and seemingly insurmountable challenge. If someone cuts you off on the road or taps your bumper, the most likely reaction is to swear or curse at the other driver, give chase or try to get even. But the truly Christian way is to pull oneself out of the situation, calm down, and let the other driver go. The ability to settle down and get your hold on your temper is admirable. The road, after all, is not an arena to prove your worth or your vehicle's great power. Keeping your anger in check is the key to getting more mileage with your car and your gas. Instead of burning fuel and rubber, just mentally let the other driver burn in hell or something. Listen to music to calm yourself. Or talk to yourself about the probable humorous reason why the other driver did what he did. You could be buying yourself an afterlife in heaven if you're able to do that.

Road rage also contributes to hasty judgments and unwanted miscalculations on the road. When you drive angrily, you tend to have a mistaken assumption of what you and your vehicle can achieve. Just as people advice not to drive when you're drunk, in the same way, don't drive when you're angry. Remember that objects on the side view and rear view mirrors might be closer than you think they are. You'd certainly not want to endanger others with sheer irresponsible anger.

In driving, as in any other type of work, we need to have the proper attitude, great courtesy for other road users, street smarts, and training. Being equipped with such factors helps a driver become the real king of the road. Of course, there will always be other drivers who will test one's patience on the road. However, if every road user becomes a responsible and regulation-keeping individual, there might not be any more motor accidents caused by road rage.

Remember that driving is supposed to get you where you're headed, not where you're ultimately be destined to be (DEATH, hello!). Even those who are being sent off to their final resting place use slow-moving hearses. Who would want to hurry to their death, anyway?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What is road rage? How does it lead to many auto accidents?
2. Have you ever experienced road rage? Be able to talk about your experience in class.
3. How can people deal with road rage? Do you have any more helpful suggestions?
4. Why do drivers need to observe courtesy on the road? How?
5. What would you do if someone chases you on the road because he was angered by what you supposedly did to his car/him?