

## Offense

The word “offense” means: to cause to stumble, to trap, trip up and to entrap. Offense is a trap of the enemy. It is intended to get us off track and destroy us. We need to be careful and cautious.

Some people are offended at God. Some people are disappointed in God. The truth is, God is not your problem. He is not the one who has caused these bad things. He has not failed you. He is a good God (John 10:10). Don't let your bad experience destroy your relationship with God. You are offended at the wrong person. Some people are offended at a mate, boss, friend, bad things, traffic, God's Word, Pastor, government, Truth.

### A. He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted

- a) Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; **he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;
- b) Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; **he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted**, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."
  - i) **God is in the business of healing hearts.** Healing the brokenhearted, binding up wounds, and disappointments. The power of God is to heal (Luke 5:17) everyone: Spirit, Soul, and Body.

## B. Envy and strife

James 3:16-17 "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. Offense produces strife which will open the door to every evil work.

- a) God is restoring relationships, healing brokenhearted and physical bodies. For some people; offense, bitterness, and anger have hindered the manifestation of their healing, increase, breakthrough, promotion and so forth. Taking offense and walking in unforgiveness empowers the enemy against us.
- b) We have to be careful **not to take borrowed offense**. Many times, we take on offense that is someone else's and it destroys and eats us up. It kills us softly. This is one of the dumbest things to do. This happens because we love someone that gets hurt by another, we tend to carry strife and offense on their behalf.
- c) We will get the opportunity to be offended. Many of us are excited about the Lord but will allow ourselves to be offended and lose our excitement. Offense hinders people from being used mightily.

## C. Downward spiral from offense

Matthew 24:4-14 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. [5] For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. [6] And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. [7] For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. [8] All these are the beginning of sorrows. [9] Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. [10] And then shall many **be offended**, and shall **betray one another**, and shall **hate one another**. [11] And **many false prophets** shall rise, and shall **deceive** many. [12] And because **iniquity shall abound**, the **love of many shall wax cold**. [13] But he that shall endure unto the end, the same

shall be saved. [14] And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

A close attention to these verses shows a **Downward Spiral** that happens from the place of offense.

- a) Offense. Guard your heart against offense.
- b) Betrayal
- c) Hatred
- d) False prophets. False prophets arise from the place of offense. They start out true and then because of offense become false.
  - i) Most doctrinal error comes from a place of offense.
  - ii) People begin to interpret what the Word says by their experience instead of their experience by the Word. They begin to form what they believe based on their experiences alone outside the Word of God.
  - iii) We should never let what we do not know to keep us from or alter the things we already know.
- e) Deception
- f) Sin and Iniquity
- g) Cold love

#### D. Offense will come

Luke 17:1 says that, it is impossible but that offenses will come. We have to learn how to handle and deal with offense. Hurt people hurt people.

- a) Offense will come, but you don't have to become offended. Make a decision not to become offended. Make up your mind on how you respond.
- b) Love covers a multitude of sins (Proverbs 10:12; 17:9; 1 Peter 4:8). We should **overlook, be kind, cut people some slack.**

- c) Many times, we take offense over **petty things**. He forgot my birthday, he forgot my name, he didn't say hello, he ignored me, he gave me a bad look, he has not talked to me in a long while, he hasn't answered my calls, emails, or texts.
- i) There is more to life than you. You aren't the center of the universe. Get over it! Grow up. People have things to pay attention to and think about besides you.
  - ii) Jeremiah 12:5 says, "**If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses?** and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"
- d) We must be void of speculative imagination.
- i) We should not be digging into motives of people as to why they do what they do. Once we get into the motives or reason why people did what they have done, then we have entered into judgment.
  - ii) We can say WHAT but not WHY or BECAUSE (Motives). **We should not judge a person's motives but their actions.** We should judge WHAT they did but not WHY they did it.
- e) Believe and accept that people will mess up, hurt, and harm you, but decide or make a choice to forgive all the time and everyone.
- i) God has given you the grace and power to forgive, release others.
  - ii) Make a decision today to **release** those who harm, offend hurt you. This is good for you. You can forgive if you decide to. You can release them if you choose to.

- f) One of the major problems we have is that we are not dead to self. We are still alive. If we were truly dead, it would not bother us if people treated us bad.

## How to process offense:

### 1. Forgive

A. We need to make a fore decision to forgive everyone, all the time for everything. I know it is not going to be easy, but we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength. God will help us do what is right (Philippians 2:12). Offense will steal your joy, peace, energy. There is only one letter difference in the spelling of words bitter and better.

a) Luke 23:34 “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; **for they know not what they do**. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.” (Emphasis mine).

i) They don't know what they are doing! What people do **TO** you is not greater than what Jesus did **FOR** you.

ii) We got to value the **CROSS** greater than **OUR LOSS!**

### 2. Serve without expectation.

A. **When it comes to men, expect nothing but be thankful for everything.** Serve because God called you, commissioned you. Have your expectation from God, not men.

B. Man will disappoint you. Men are fickle. Expect to receive from God, not men. Your service should be unto the Lord. Our security should be in the Lord not our performance.

C. Sometimes you may not get a thank you, Happy birthday, hello, forgot my name, etc. are some of the petty reasons people get offended. We need to quit being the center of the world because we are not. People are thinking about other things besides us. We are not the center of focus for everyone else.

a) Give and love without expectation

### 3. Be Thankful

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

a) This will keep you from being offended. Have a grateful heart. There are so many things to be thankful for around you. See the glass half FULL not half empty.

### 4. Know who you are.

A. Know your identity in Christ and be secure in it. One of the reasons we get offended is because we forget who we are. The real you doesn't get offended. God living inside of you doesn't get offended. People, who are insecure and desperate, are easily offended. When you are secure in the LORD, nothing can offend you – Psalm 119:165 "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

### 5. Don't look back.

A. When offenses come, don't bring up the past. Many of us are driving forward while using the rear mirror. **Many of us want to get to the promised land, but we are busy painting pictures of Egypt.**

B. Do not focus or value what they have done to you or treated you. Focus on what Jesus has done for you and in you! You are not a victim but a victor. Be determined to move forward.

C. It is healthy sometimes to give yourself space from an individual who is gifted at giving offense.

D. Sometimes this is what you have to do not to walk in offense. Some people have to be loved from a distance. You shouldn't just bring everyone into your inner circle.

## 6. Pray for them

D. Praying for people that have hurt us begins to allow grace flow out of us which eventually heals us. When we pray for those who hurt us, the love of God being extended towards them heals our very own hearts. Praying for those who do you wrong is one of the antidotes to taking or breaking the bondage and stronghold of offense.

## 7. Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself.

A. **Matthew 18:15-17** "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

B. **Proverbs 25:8-10** "Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbor hath put thee to shame. Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself; and discover not a secret to another:"

a) Do not believe what is said until you truly verify it. Without two or three witnesses, I am not going to listen to any of these criticisms or accusations. Today we live in a world where people can easily destroy another man's life through false accusations only because they do not like them. This approach is despicable and utterly ungodly.

b) Go to the person and speak with them. Do not talk about them. Never say something to someone else that you have not told them already or that you

would never say to them. This is not to say that we should have a confronting heart. We should seek reconciliation rather than being right. Correct people but don't attack them. Correction is corrective, not punitive.

c) If it is not heavy on your heart to go tell that person that has hurt you OR if you don't want to, then it's not a big deal. Let it go.

i) If someone is mad at me, I am not going to second guess. You will have to come and tell me. However, there is wisdom to be used.

ii) **Sometimes you don't have to tell the other person** because it would only bring up emotional stuff they have already dealt with. Sometimes you have to keep your mouth shut and let the Holy Spirit deal with them

d) **We do not have permission to do what is wrong and evil because we are hurting. We can choose to do what is right even when we are hurt or hurting.** Jesus did, and He lives on the inside of us, therefore, so can we.

i) Doing what is right should not be based on what people have done to us or how they treat us but based on the Word of God.

ii) Pressure is no excuse for not doing what is right. We should never point to other people's failures as justification for our own.

e)

We should always behave in a way that leaves a door open for future restoration of a relationship (2Cor 2:6-8).

f) Don't tell them their fault, confess your own fault.

i) Don't say, "I think you started it, but I was also wrong."

ii) Don't say, your fault is greater than mine, but I reacted wrong too.

## 8. Humble yourself and receive God's healing.

E. James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with **meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**

a) There is pride somewhere that is stopping folks from letting go. Don't make your offense a trophy!

b) Someone once said, "offenses are not given, they are taken." I beg to differ. **"Offenses are both given and taken!"** Some are givers, while some are takers. Who are you?

## 9. Do not specialize in giving offense

A. 2 Corinthians 6:3 "Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:" 1 Corinthians 10:32 "Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:"

B. 1 Samuel 17:27-30 "And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. **And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? And he turned from him** toward another, and spoke after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

a) Although offense will be given, you don't have to take it.

i) Do you realize that most offense that we take is not intended to be given?

- ii) David refused to take offense when given by Eliab. If you take offense, you will become a victim and remain bound while the offender goes free.
  
- b) Offense will be given even **when you are doing the right thing**. It is a deception to think because we are doing the right thing everyone will like it and offense won't be given. If anything, doing the right thing will cause offense to come. People will still take offense even when nothing is intended.
  
- c) One of the best times to resist offense and unforgiveness is to choose not to get offended the time when something happens, and you begin to feel offense arrive.
  - i) Don't give Satan TIME to ground and root this offense and unforgiveness in your heart.
  
  - ii) Matter of fact, I will take it further and say that the best time is before temptation ever comes.
  
  - iii) Make a decision not to get offended when people do certain things to you.
  
- d) Our daily attitude and confession should be "I'm not mad at anybody, I am not offended at anyone, and I have no resentment. I forgive all."
  - i) Keep your heart offense free. Allow your experiences in life help develop **think skin**.

"We should be too big to take offense and too noble to give it." —Abraham Lincoln