

3. Lay Down Your Right To Be Offended

- John 14:30, NIV – (30) “... *the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing [no place] in Me.*”
- Philippians 2:6-8, NIV – (6) [*Jesus*] *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something [a right] to be grasped, (7) but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death -- even death on a cross!*

4. Humble Yourself, Refuse To Take The Bait, And Receive God’s Grace Instead

- 1 Peter 5:5, NIV – (5) ... *All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

5. Forgive The Offender

- Luke 23:34, NIV – (34) *Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*
- Hurt people hurt people

6. Discover What God Is Trying To Reveal To You Through The Offense

- Psalm 139:23-24, NIV – (23) *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. (24) See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

7. Keep The Offense To Yourself

- Proverbs 19:11, NIV – (11) *A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.*
- Proverbs 17:9, NIV – (9) *He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*

PREPARING TO CROSS OVER

Part 5 – Hindrance 3 – Offense

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OFFENSE DEFINED

- We experience offense when we feel that we are denied a perceived or expected right
1. **Expected Right** - Offense occurs when an expected right is not met
 2. **Perceived Right** - Offense occurs when a perceived right is violated
 3. **Denied Right** - Offense occurs when the right is denied

SATAN’S USE OF OFFENSE

1. Satan Uses Offense To Trap Us

- “Offence” (Greek) = “scandalon” = “the bait on a trap”

2. Satan Uses Offense Strategically

3. Satan Makes Offense Appealing

- Most people are more comfortable living passively as a victim, than taking responsibility to do the work necessary to become the victor
- It’s just as wrong to be offended all the time, as it is to be offensive

4. Satan Uses Our Weakness To Get Us Offended

- a) The Insecure Or “Inferior”
- b) Those With A Religious Or Legalistic Spirit
- c) Those With A Poverty Spirit (A Spirit Of Lack)
- d) How Our Unresolved Wounds Cause Us To Be Offended

5. How Offense Compounds

- Illustration – A little burr of metal in a dryer vent
- Proverbs 18:19, NIV – (19) *An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.*

SIGNS THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN UP AN OFFENSE

1. You Lose Your Ability To Worship
2. You Become Critical Of Other People
3. You Lose Your Ability To Experience Joy And Fellowship With Others
4. You Lose Your Ability To Get Revelation From God Or His Word
5. You Are Drawn Into An Isolated Desert Experience

TWO BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

1. John The Baptist

- Matthew 11:2-6, NRSV – (1) Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. (2) When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples (3) and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (4) Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: (5) the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. (6) And blessed is anyone who takes no offense [takes no bait] at me."

2. Jesus' Neighbours

- Matthew 13:54-58, NRSV – (54) He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? (55) Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? (56) And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" (57) And they took offense [took the bait] at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house." (58) And he did not [could not] do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

- Why is offense so bad? Because my offense can hinder other people from doing God's will, and it can hinder the move of God in our midst

STEPS TO DEAL WITH OFFENSE

A. If You Are The Offender

1. Intentional / Purposeful Offense – Stop It!

- Matthew 18:6, CEV – (6) *It will be terrible for people who cause even one of my little followers to [be offended]. Those people would be better off thrown into the deepest part of the ocean with a heavy stone tied around their necks!*
- Luke 17:1, HCSB – (1) [Jesus] said to His disciples, "Offenses will certainly come, but woe to the one they come through!"

2. Unintentional / Accidental Offense – Fix It!

- Psalm 139:23-24, NIV – (23) *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. (24) See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*
- If you do not willingly receive correction from your friends, who love you and want the best for you, you will be forced to receive correction from your enemies, who don't love you, and don't care what happens to you

B. If You Have Been Offended

1. Determine If You Have A Valid Right To Feel Offended

- a) Direct Offense – You Experienced The Offense – God Offers Grace
- 1 Peter 5:5, NIV – (5) ... *All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

- b) Indirect Offense – Taking Up An Offense – No Grace

2. See The Offense As The Bait Of Satan