

KEY VERSES

Luke 17:1 NKJV - *Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!"*

Matthew 24:10-13 NKJV - *And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. v.11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. v.12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. v.13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

KEY POINTS

1. Offenses are a _____.

Luke 17:1 NKJV - "It is impossible that no offenses should come..."

2. Offense is an issue that has been a part of the church _____.

- Example: Euodia and Syntyche (*Philippians 4:2-3*)

3. Satan and God both _____ through offenses.

1 Corinthians 11:18, 19 NIV - In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. v.19 No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval.

4. Conflict management is a _____ for leadership.

- If your desire is to become a person of influence, you have to learn how to deal with your offenses.

OFFENSE 101

1. What is an offense?

- An offense is a hurt or injury that comes primarily through people who _____ about one another.

2. Offenses come in three major ways.

- _____

A betrayal is a violation of a person's trust or confidence.

NOTES

The question is not: _____ I be offended?
 The question is: _____ I am offended what am I going to do about it?

- _____
 - All relationships that are meaningful in your life have expectations.
 - Unhealthy or unrealistic expectations set us up for offense.
- _____
 - Harmful words can be words that are spoken or words that are left unspoken. Silence can be a tactic that the enemy uses to wrap you up in offense.
- Jesus had the opportunity to be offended by all of these things.

3. An offense is a deceptive _____ of the enemy.

Luke 17:1 NKJV - Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!"

- The Greek word for "offend" comes from the word "skandalon" which refers to the part of a trap where the bait is attached.
4. There are two major categories of offended people.
- Those who have been treated _____.
 - Those who _____ they have been treated unjustly.

THE SPIRIT OF OFFENSE

1. There is _____ that comes from living in a spirit of offense.
- After a while, being constantly trapped in offense will cause a bitter root to take hold deep inside of you.
 - A bitter root produces bitter _____.

Hebrews 12:14, 15 NIV - Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. v.15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

2. There are damaging _____ that come from living in a spirit of offense.

- Examples: broken promises, multiplied pain, divisions, broken relationships, broken promises, and backsliding.

OVERCOMING THE SPIRIT OF OFFENSE

1. _____

- They are ultra sensitive to the words and actions of others.
- They constantly second guess and over-analyze other people's motives and words.
- They have a tendency to turn small slights into huge insults.
- They struggle to maintain friendships because no one can live up to their expectations.
- Things just seem to "happen" to them often.
- They replay their offense over and over

2. Be _____ in the Holy Spirit.

- Prepare your _____ to deal with your _____.
 - We need to pursue peace because it's mutually beneficial. (Romans 14:19)
- Prepare your _____.
 - This is your thought-life.

3. Be _____

- Recognize Satan's crafty attempts to _____ you into the world of offense.

4. _____ the potential offense with kind words and good works.

- Respond the opposite way of how your flesh wants to respond.

5. Be committed to walking in _____.

Let's not settle for a life hindered by offense, but instead let's do the work to become people who are marked by the ability to overcome offenses as true disciples of Jesus.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Did the Holy Spirit highlight anything to you in this lesson?
2. Based on the short list in this lesson, do you think you struggle with the spirit of offense?
3. Do you have any experience with the “bitter fruit” of offense?
4. How do you respond when you discover you have offended someone?
5. Is there a person or people you need to forgive to find freedom in the area of offense?
6. How does offense hinder our pursuit of discipleship?