



Sermon #7: Overcoming Offense

Offense (Greek: *skandalon*). The baited portion of a trap

Luke 17:1 "Then He said to the disciples, 'It is impossible that no offenses should come...'"

John 6:61 "When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, 'Does this offend you?'"

Matthew 13:57 "...so they were offended at Him."

Philippians 1:10 "...that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ."

I. What is Offense?

- Offense is the anger one feels at having been victimized and/or humiliated by someone who is interpreted as trying to be superior. It is rooted in insecurities and empowered by pride.
- Offense comes to you as a friend. It agrees with your anger. It soothes you and tells you that it will protect you.
- But soon it becomes a beast that destroys your life and attacks all those around you, cutting off key relationships.

II. What are the Results of Offense?

- Obstruction
- Magnet
- Brick Wall
- Ball and Chain
- Lens

III. Why is Offense so Irresistible?

- Offense appeals to our sense of justice
- Then it appeals to our pride
- Finally it appeals to our sense of self-preservation

IV. Who is Most Prone to Offense?

- Those who are wounded
- Those who have a chip on their shoulder
- Those who feel like they have something to prove
- Those who have an overdeveloped sense of justice
- Those who are striving to get what they deserve
- Those who try to cover their insecurities with bravado
- Those who feel like they have something to protect



V. How Does Offense Operate in our Minds?

It multiplies. Offense has cousins that move in!

- Unforgiveness
- Revenge
- Hatred
- Frustration
- Anger
- Bitterness

VI. What are the Signs of Offense?

1. Our pride and sense of dignity is hurt. We feel put down, disrespected
2. We obsess over the incident, rolling it over continually in our mind
3. We withhold love and fellowship from the person who offended us
4. We desire to justify our feelings by sharing them with others hoping for agreement
5. We create defense mechanisms to protect us from further hurt
6. We blame God and question His love

VII. How Can We Be Free From Offense?

1. Recognize offense for what it is - an enemy
2. Admit that you have no right to be offended
3. Release yourself from the control of offense
4. Pray for insight, compassion and pity on people who offend you
5. Speak out blessings on the person who offended you
6. Do not rehearse the event in your mind
7. Refuse to take the bait any longer