

HOW TO LOVE

Did That Offend You?

- I. **We need to be quick to recognize offense in our lives so that we can give forgiveness and overcome offense and keep the root of bitterness from developing and destroying our faith**
 - A. We have been lacking light and lacking sight in this area of "Am I offended? Have I taken offense? Am I in unforgiveness?"
 1. Our attitude where this is concerned has been, "*Well I'm not offended, I'm not in unforgiveness, I don't have anything against them,*" and we've derived that attitude from the understanding that we are not supposed to take offense and be in unforgiveness
 2. You can say you're not offended and be offended, you can say you're not in unforgiveness and be in unforgiveness, you can say you don't have anything against them and have something against them
 - B. The enemy doesn't want you to recognize when you've taken offense or have unforgiveness because he doesn't want you to deal with it
 1. The enemy wants you to be in offense and not recognize it, hold unforgiveness and not realize you have it, have something against someone and not know that you do (and in fact he'll tell you that you don't)
 - a. We don't want to walk around the spirit of offense in our hearts totally unaware of it
 2. The enemy doesn't want you to know what offense is because he doesn't want you to recognize it in your life
 - a. When trapping an animal the key is to keep the traps camouflaged in order to capture it
 3. One of the enemies main strategies is to strip the relevancy of thing to stop the application of it
 - a. EX: Forgiveness isn't relevant to you because you're not in unforgiveness, you're not offended at anybody
 - C. The enemy likes to get that unforgiveness and offense working in you and just keep it there at the ready without you knowing so that when you get ready to release faith in God to overcome there's nothing there to energize your faith and make it work
 1. If we can recognize offense, ought, and unforgiveness then we can give forgiveness and live life not having anything against anybody
- II. **Are you offended? Did you take offense? Did that offend you? – Mark 4:17 (AMP)-Offended (become displeased, indignant, resentful)**
 - A. To see in another what you disapprove of; To be offended in one, find occasion of stumbling in
 1. *Matthew 11:6-And blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me – Matthew 13:57-And they were offended in him*
 - B. To cause one to feel displeasure at a thing; to be displeased or indignant

1. *Matthew 15:12-Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended after they heard this saying*
- C. To cause one to judge unfavorably or unjustly of another
1. *Matthew 17:27-Not withstanding lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast a hook and take up the fish that first comes up; and when you have opened his mouth, you will find a piece of money: that take and give unto them for me and you*
- D. To put a stumbling block or impediment in the way upon which another may fall; to be a stumbling block; to cause or to make stumble
1. *Matthew 5:29-If your right eye offend you pluck it out and cast it from you*
 2. *Matthew 18:6-But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea*
- E. To cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey
1. *John 6:61-When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Does this offend you?*
 2. *Matt13:21-Yet hath he not root in himself but endures for a while: for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word, by and by he is offended*
 3. *Matt26:31-35-All you shall be offended b/c of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad*
 4. *John 16:1-These things I have spoken unto you that you should not be offended*
- F. Being offended is really a three step process 1) You see something you disapprove of 2) You get displeased and indignant 3) You judge unfavorably (that's the opposite of releasing and letting go, that's holding onto)
1. You're seeing something you disapprove of, you're displeased, you're indignant, you're judging unfavorably, you have something against them, you are holding onto it, YOU ARE OFFENDED and you have stumbled
 2. If something happened that you disapproved of, that displeased you, that made you indignant (angry, annoyed, outraged, furious) and rather than forgive and let it go you hold onto it and judge unfavorably of another person then you have taken offense

III. One of the biggest signs that you've taken offense is that you murmur with the mouth

- A. *John 6:61-Their murmuring demonstrated that they had taken offense; One of the main ways offense manifests is in murmuring*
1. *59-60-Jesus preached the message many of his disciples probably sat down to eat after the service and they disapproved of it, got mad about it, and then judged unfavorably by speaking words (the key word in verse 60 SAID)*
 - a. What are they doing when they are saying in verse 60? Grumble, grumble, grumble

- b. *AMP-This is a hard and difficult and strange saying an offensive and unbearable message. Who can stand to hear it? Who can be expected to listen to such teaching?*
 - 2. Jesus knew they murmured and asked them if they were offended; These two are so connected – Murmuring and offense
 - a. If you're quick to murmur you're easy to offend
 - b. **Murmur**-To say anything against (in a low tone), discontently complain
 - 3. When you're displeased and angry murmuring will follow and that's evidence that you've taken offense and you need to forgive
 - a. Rather than take offense and murmur, forgive and give thanks
- B. Numbers 14:1-2-They murmured against Moses and Aaron; They saw something they disapproved of, they got mad, they judged unfavorably – THEY ARE OFFENDED and that's made evident by their murmuring
- 1. Do they have something against Moses and Aaron? Yes. How do we know? They're murmuring
 - 2. They were offended at Moses, they were offended at Aaron that's connected to them never seeing the land of promise
 - a. If we become offended we will never see our land of promise, we will never see what God is fully promised us and will be continually held back from God's best for our lives
 - b. Every offense/unforgiveness you hold onto will hold you back from God's best for you life
 - 3. Offense will keep you from your miracle, from your victory, from the supernatural-Mark 6
 - a. Instead of having God manifest in their life and experience his best and walk in victory, they'd rather hold onto the offense
 - b. You can't have the offense/unforgiveness and God's best; you have to let go of one to have the other
 - c. There's a connection between the forgiving life and the best life, the forgiving life and the supernatural life, the forgiving life and the victorious life (John 6:61-Offense kept these people from following Jesus and experience the best life)

IV. Luke 17:1-Offences are coming (trap, snare, impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall, any person or thing by which one is entrapped or drawn into the error of sin)

- A. Offences, traps, snares, stumbling blocks they will come
 - 1. *ASV-It is impossible, but that occasions of stumbling should come; ESV-Temptations are sure to come; MSG-Hard trials and temptations are bound to come; NAS-It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; NRS-Occasions for stumbling are bound to come; TNIV-Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come; YLT-It's impossible for the stumbling blocks not to come; NET-Stumbling blocks are sure to come; VOICE-You can't stop temptations to do wrong from coming*
- B. One of the greatest ways the enemy likes to cause us to stumble is by taking offense

1. The snare, the trap the temptation Jesus talks about in the next verse is not forgiving your brother or taking offense
 2. The opportunity to be offended is coming and it's impossible for it not to come
- C. So knowing that the opportunity to become offended will come we need to learn what to do when it comes our way

V. Every opportunity to be offended has to be dealt with

- A. Ephesians 4:28-You're going to see things you disapprove of and it's going to make you angry but what you can't do is take offense
1. You have feelings of anger and you're upset and annoyed and outraged – It's not a sin to have feelings
 - a. God didn't say you couldn't get angry, he said you can't allow that anger to cause you to sin
 - 1) Don't allow those feelings to drive you to take offense and hold onto it
 - b. The sin people usually commit after their anger is they take offense, they judge unfavorably, they hold onto it
 2. **Okay you're angry, you're mad, you're upset, you're annoyed, you're outraged – NOW WHAT? Will you take offense or give forgiveness? Will you hold onto it or let it go? – I'm angry but I'm not taking offense; I'm not happy about it, but I'm not holding it**
 3. One of the main ways believers give place to the devil is they get angry and take offense; Inoperative faith gives him place (faith works by love)-2 Corinthians 2:11
- B. Every opportunity you have to take offense and hold unforgiveness needs to be actively dealt with
1. 2 Cor10:3-5-Every thought of offense and unforgiveness needs to be dealt with
 2. Every time you had an opportunity to be offended, to have anything against anybody you either took offense or gave forgiveness and if you didn't give forgiveness you took offense
- C. Forgiveness is your defense against offense; it's the weapon that you use to fight back against the spirit of offense
1. You can't give forgiveness and take offense at the same time
 - a. When you have an opportunity to take offense if you'll give forgiveness it'll keep you from taking offense
 2. I REFUSE TO TAKE OFFENSE – but you can't stop there; Too many times people of stopped there, but you don't overcome offense by just refusing to take it, you overcome offense by giving forgiveness; I GIVE FORGIVENESS – this is how you overcome offense
 - a. Your defense against offense is to refuse to take offense; your offense to overcome offense is to give forgiveness
 - b. Giving forgiveness puts you on the offensive in this attack against your love walk

VI. Do not pretend-Mark 11:25-Forgive if you have ought against any – People pretend like they don't have anything against anybody because they know they're not supposed to and they perfect pretending with statements like, "I don't have anything against them, I'm not offended, I'm not in unforgiveness."

- A. How would you know if you have something against them, if you've taken offense, if you are holding unforgiveness?
1. You'd get a working agreement with the Holy Spirit to show you if you are
 2. Check your words-Are you murmuring against them? Are you still talking about it?
 3. Are you judging unfavorably of them?
 4. Has your loving them, your love for them been affected?
 5. Is there something between you and them? (In your heart is there something between you and them?)
 6. You have to be honest with yourself (We're not trying to drum something up that isn't there, but we are looking for honesty)
 - a. Honest is a big key to liberty and you have to be honest with yourself and honest with God
- B. Stop pretending it's not there and deal with it; If you pretend like it's not there you won't deal with it
1. You saw something you disapproved of, it made you mad, you've judged unfavorably of them, you have something against them; so ADMIT IT and let it go; Confess it, it made you mad, it upset you, it hurt you and then let it go
 - a. Deal with it, admit it, it made you mad, it displeased you, it hurt you and then let it go
 2. You won't acknowledge your need to let something go if you pretend like you don't have it
 - a. What we have done is carried that stuff around for months, pretending like we don't need to deal with it
 - b. Pushing it aside and acting like it didn't bother you is not forgiving and that is not dealing with it
 3. Proverbs 28:13-Pretending like you're not offended because you know you're not supposed to be is covering it, not confessing it
- C. Proverbs 14:10-The heart knows it's own bitterness; that means inside you know if you took offense or not
1. The more you pretend like it didn't offend you the harder your heart becomes to the reality that you need to deal with this
 2. You can pretend and pretend and pretend to the point that you can be full of offense and think you don't have any
- D. Also involved in this is it takes humility to admit what they said hurt me, cut me; pride pretends like it didn't hurt
1. Sometimes to protect yourself you use the defense mechanism of pretending it didn't hurt

2. If it hurt, it hurt admit it and stop trying to protect yourself; humble yourself and believe God to heal the hurt and forgive that person and let them go

VII. As believers we need to be forgiving all the time (Because our heart is full of forgiveness so too should our mouth be)

- A. Colossians 3:13, Eph4:32-Forgiving is in the present progressive tense and that indicates continuing action of something going on right now
 1. Forgiveness is something you do all the time
 - a. We've thought it's only relevant when someone does something to me with the intent to harm me in some capacity
 - b. Forgiveness comes into play anytime anybody does anything you don't like
 2. How often do you think the enemy is trying to get you to take offense? All the time – Then we need to be forgiving all the time
 3. **I never turn my forgiver off, I keep it a running all the time**
 4. 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Mark 11:25-I'm supposed to pray without ceasing, but Jesus said when I stand praying forgive so that tells me that I need to be forgiving all the time
- B. Acts 24:16-I'm exercising myself towards this life where I don't have anything against anybody
 1. A conscience void of offense is when there's nothing between me and the Lord and me men
 2. **Have**-Possess; You can't HAVE a conscience void of offence if you are always taking offence
 - a. The only way to HAVE a conscience void of offense is to be giving forgiveness all of the time
 - b. **Always**-Continually, constantly; You have to be forgiving all the time if you want to always have a conscience void of offense
 3. **Exercise**-To exercise one's self, take pains, labor, **strive**-To make efforts, to endeavor with earnestness, labor hard
 - a. This tells me to have this conscience void of offence it's going to take spiritual faith energy and effort on our part to have it
 - b. If you don't make efforts to obtain it, to HAVE it then you won't have it; You got to get hungry for this forgiving life and pursue it
 4. **Conscience**-The consciousness of anything, The soul, the conscience; All these offense takes place where people can't see it
 - a. You can smile at someone and have aught against them in your heart
 - b. You can put on a good show and appear to not have anything against me, while your heart can be full of aught
 5. He exercises himself to not have anything against anybody all the time; to never take offense, but rather to HAVE a conscience void of offense; To do that you have to be forgiving all the time

VIII. Proverbs 19:11-It is your glory to pass over a transgression (Passing over is the opposite of taking)

- A. When you pass over a transgression and don't take offense you are adorning yourself, beautifying yourself, taking on an attribute of God
 - 1. **Glory**-To beautify, to adorn, as an attribute of God, beauty, splendor
 - 2. *MSG-Smart people know how to hold their tongue; their grandeur (splendor, magnificence) is to forgive and forget*
 - 3. *BBE-A man's good sense makes him slow to wrath, and the overlooking of wrongdoing is his glory*
 - 4. *CEB-Insightful people restrain their anger; their glory is to ignore an offense*
 - 5. *NIRV-He will be honored if he forgives someone who sins against him*
 - 6. *NLT-Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrong doings*
- B. *Discretion defers anger*-Your insight and understanding into these things and how the enemy works and what offense and unforgiveness does to your faith and how it gives the enemy place will defer or prolong your anger
- C. The more you pass over transgressions instead of taking offense the more developed you'll become in forgiveness
 - 1. Pass over-You're not going stay there with the transgression and camp on it and rehearse it, but rather you pass over it
 - 2. Luke 9:51-56-They rejected Jesus, his disciples took offense; it didn't even phase him; He was developed in passing over transgression
 - 3. 1 Peter 2:21-Jesus never responded by taking offense; His own family called him crazy, his disciples left him, Judas betrayed him Peter denied him but he didn't take offense
- D. The more developed you become in taking offense the easier it is to do it and over time your mind becomes trained to look for it and find it and even search out a reason to be offended and you become a person who is quick to be offended-James 1:19
 - 1. *James 1:19 (AMP)-Understand this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear [a ready listener], slow to speak, slow to take offense and to get angry*
 - 2. You develop yourself the other way to the place where you have a long rope and you're slow to anger

IX. What to do when offense comes

- A. Be calm – *Ecclesiastes 10:4 (AMP)-If the temper of the ruler rises up against you, do not leave your place [or show a resisting spirit]; for gentleness and calmness prevent or put a stop to great offenses*
 - 1. If the temper of someone rises against you, you're going to have an opportunity to be offend, but if you be calm and gentle it will put a stop to you being offended at him and in many cases him being offended at you
 - 2. Calm and gentle has not be the calling card of many Christians
 - 3. *MSG-A clam disposition quiets intemperate rage*

4. *VOICE-A calm replay puts great offenses to rest*
 5. *NCV-Remaining calm solves great problems*
- B. Take pleasure – 2 Corinthians 12:10
1. Love the trying of your faith, love the opportunity to develop
- C. Give yourself to prayer – Psalm 109:1-5
1. His response to an opportunity to be offended was to pray
 2. Stay connected to the vine so that you can bear fruit