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FORGIVING IS NOT AN OPTION

There isn't a day that goes by for each of us that we don't have the opportunity to be offended. It isn't usually the big things that offend us, it is the little things. Sadly, because we get offended at the little things, they become big things that can explode into complete chaos.

What causes this? I would have to say it is because we walk in the flesh and not in the spirit. We are what the word calls, "carnal" (fleshly) Christians. Oh, yes, we love the Lord, but we are ruled by our soul, which is our mind, will, and emotions. The will has to come under the subjection of the spirit if we are to live without offenses.

The only way we can do this is to crucify the flesh. Not literally, but spiritually. We have to put it to death daily by taking up our cross. We surrender our rights to God, and let the Holy Spirit control us. We must say no to offenses.

If you are offended by another person, you must forgive quickly, or a root of bitterness will take hold of your soul. It will worm its way into your thought life and consume you. Eventually it will cause you to lose your joy, peace, and love for everyone and everything. You can't allow even a sliver of offense to take hold. It will destroy your life.

Jesus talks about offense. He tells us it is better for us to have a millstone put around our neck and be thrown into the sea than to offend one of his "children." If this is that serious with him, it should be that serious with us too.

Do you live in a constant state of offense? Do "little things" get to you often? Then I can assure you that you are like many, a carnal Christian. You need to make a choice. Get over it, and forgive, or be turned over to the tormentors mentioned in Matthew 18:34.

I guarantee you if you feel tormented then there is some unforgiveness in your life that needs to be dealt with. Ask God to examine your heart and then act accordingly. Don't play the blame game. Be quick to own your "bad" and move forward free from the hold that it has on you. You won't regret it.