

DEALING WITH AND PREVENTING OFFENSES

OFFEND: To arouse resentment, anger, or vexation in another. To be displeasing.

INTRODUCTION:

Each of us has expectations, expressed and unexpressed, of how we would like to be treated or how we would like for things to happen. When these expectations are not met, we can easily become offended. Satan uses this condition to bring division among families, friends, and even the church.

*“A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city,
and contentions are like the bars of a castle.”* Proverbs 18:19

Often the person who has offended another is totally unaware that they have been offensive. In a church context this must be overcome by humility by each party. First, it should be the desire of every Christian to never be a stumbling block to another. Next we should disarm any unreal expectations we may have of others so that offenses won't happen.

INEVITABLE OFFENSES: Some offenses must come because of unfounded expectations. Since God's ways are not our ways, this can set us up for disappointments. We have to change our expectations to conform to His ways or forever be offended.

- I. Naaham was offended by the prophet's instructions. II Kings 5:8-14
- II. The Jews were offended at Jesus. Matthew 13:53-58, 26:31, I Peter 2:7,8
- III. There are those who will be offended at the Word of God. Matthew 13:21
- IV. The cross of Jesus is an offense to some. I Corinthians 1:23, Galatians 5:11
- V. Some are offended because of persecution. Matthew 24:9,10

NEEDLESS OFFENSES: These must be avoided by all means.

- I. Woe to the person that causes needless offenses. Matthew 18:6,7
- II. Jesus avoided needless offenses. Matthew 17:24-27
- III. We are told to refrain from behavior that offends a brother. Romans 14:12,13,21
- IV. Christians are instructed to not offend anyone purposely. I Corinthians 10:31-33
- V. The ministry is to be particularly scrupulous. II Corinthians 6:3,4 James 3:1,2

PREVENTING OFFENSES: Follow the golden rule and be understanding. Matthew 7:12

DEFENDING AGAINST OFFENSES:

- I. Go to the one that offended you. Matthew 18:15-17
- II. Lower your expectations about others. I Peter 4:8 I Corinthians 6:6,7
- III. Give place to God's vengeance and love your enemy. Romans 12:19,20

THE DEFENSE THAT KEEPS ONE FROM BEING OFFENDED: THE WORD!

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Ps. 119:165
“These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.” John 16:1 KJV
II Corinthians 10:1-6