

What, me offended?

2 Timothy 2:24-26; Galatians 5:20; Luke 17:1

Two categories of offended people:

- Those who have been treated unjustly.
- Those who believe they have been treated unjustly.

Offense causes us to build walls of self-preservation.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Isaiah 55:6-9; Matthew 24:10-13

The trap of revenge.

John 8:1-11; James 4:12; James 5:9; Romans 12:17-18

Healing from offense: Forgiveness.

Ephesians 4:31-32

Staying free.

Acts 24:16; 1 Peter 4:8

- Recognize you are hurt.
- Be willing to confess hurt to God.
- Be open to correction and direction.
- Must be willing to forgive.

My intentional momentum:

I confess that the power of God is greater than my offense, I will open myself up to God's correction. Through the forgiveness given me I will forgive those who have hurt me. I will not be stopped by offense but will wholly follow Christ.

NEXT STEPS

Use these questions to turn a message into a conversation.

Offense is an attack on the heart.

What is your heart condition today? Are there past offenses that you are holding in, having put up a wall of self-protection?

The first step to healing is to acknowledge the hurt.

- Confess to God your hurt.

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 what does God say about purifying our hearts?

Is God in control? This question is paramount in our ability to be free of the snare of offense. Reflect on the story of Joseph. Read Genesis 45:5-8 and Psalm 105:16-17.

See how God sent Joseph through his trials:

NO ONE CAN GET YOU OUT OF THE WILL OF GOD.

Staying free of offense keeps us in the will of God. If we become offended we can become captive to the enemy and his plans and purposes.

Self-preservation is an excuse to harbor offense. It keeps us from seeing our own faults because the blame is deferred to others. What does God say about judging and blaming others?

Matthew 7:1-5

Mathew 5:21-26

Luke 6:36-37

Romans 2:1-2

Romans 12: 17-21

Romans 14:10-13

James 4:11-12

Forgiveness is the doorway to healing. Read what Jesus says about forgiveness

Matthew 6:12-15; Luke 6:37

Forgiveness is not easy and we can find ourselves slipping back. We find ourselves fighting old thoughts and feelings. Pray for the person you forgave. These scriptures give some guidance on how to pray for them.

Matthew 5:44

Psalms 35:11-14

2 Corinthians 10:5

MY PRAYER

Father, in the name of Jesus, I acknowledge that I have sinned against you by not forgiving those who have offended me. I repent (turn away) of this and ask your forgiveness.

I acknowledge my inability to forgive them apart from you. Therefore from my heart I choose to forgive.

(insert their names- release each one individually)

I bring under the power of Jesus all that they have done wrong to me. They no longer owe me anything. I lay down the stone of revenge and retribution.

Heavenly Father, as my Lord Jesus asked you to forgive those who had sinned against him, I pray that your forgiveness will come to those who have sinned against me.

I ask that you will bless them and lead them into a closer relationship with you.

Amen