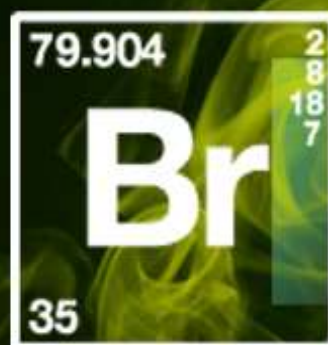


Katalyst Church



A Revolution of Love



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Heart

The disciples came to Jesus privately. “Tell us,” they said, “what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

At that time many will become **offended** and turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:1-13

Week 1 – The Spirit of Offense

**Then Jesus said to the disciples,
“It is impossible that no
offenses should come,
but woe to him through whom
they do come!**

If you breathe air, offense will occur in our heart, it is inevitable that we will get wounded or mistreated, but how we respond to being offended or offending someone will determine whether or not we have truly understood the forgiveness and reconciliation we received in Jesus

This day has come!

The Church has become offended. Members are offended by the leaders and their brothers and sisters, so they leave the church.

Employees are offended by their employer, so they quit.

Couples are offended in marriage, so they divorce sighting irreconcilable differences.

Children and Young Adults are offended, so they bring guns to school and shoot anyone in there way.

Offended - unforgiving attitudes have become the prevailing disposition of society and sadly that same offense is inundating the Church.

Many will become offended and turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other! V10

Progression: A wounded offended person will eventually betray - Betrayal ultimately leads to hatred.

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is deceived and a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 1 John 4:20

A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle. Proverbs 18:19

Strong cities are defended by walls and the result of being offended is people build up walls to keep out those they think are against them! **STRONGHOLD**

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish **STRONGHOLDS**.

We demolish arguments (**reasoning** or **imagination**s and every pretension that sets itself up against the **knowledge** of God, and we take captive every **thought** to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Walls = Thought processes/reasoning's developed in our mind that are counter contrary to Gods will and Word.

Love = Give (Break down the walls, reconcile, forgive)
Offense = Protect (Build up the walls, quarrel, blame)

Offended people = Bitter, unforgiving, critical

Betrayal

When a person seeks his or her own benefit or protection at the expense of one he or she has relationship with – Koinonia (communion)

Hatred

The absence or the void of love – LOVELESS

Σκάνδαλον – skandalon (*skan'-dal-on*)

A “scandal”; a trap stick (bent sapling), that is, snare (figuratively cause of sin): - occasion to fall (of stumbling), offence - thing that offends, stumbling-block.

Be humble when you are trying to teach those in the Church who are deceived concerning the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from Satan’s trap of offense, which he uses to catch them whenever he likes, and then they can begin doing the will of God. 2 Timothy 2:25-26

The bait of Satan

Exercise foresight *and* be on the watch to look after one another, to see that no one falls back from *and* fails to secure God’s grace (His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing), in order that no root of resentment (rancor, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble *and* bitter torment, and the many become contaminated *and* defiled by it. Hebrews 12:15

Annoyance or resentment brought about by perceived or real insult.

be/feel offended, take exception, take something personally, be/feel aggrieved, be/feel affronted, take something amiss, take umbrage,
get/be/feel upset, get/be/feel annoyed,
get/be/feel angry, be/feel indignant,
be/feel put out, be/feel insulted,
be/feel hurt, be/feel wounded,
be/feel resentful,
be/feel disgruntled, get/go into a huff, get huffy;
be/feel miffed,
have one's nose put out of joint,
be/feel riled;

The "spirit of offense" chokes ordinary conversation/relationship.

It chokes off giving people the benefit of the doubt.

It chokes off forgiveness

It chokes off tolerance

It denies human imperfection, and expects a simple, loving person to be precise and mechanical

It assumes the worst of people

It ignores the obvious intention and digs for something ugly

It allows common every day words to be misconstrued and implicated as the offender of rights.

It nourishes an attitude of dissatisfaction with life, especially for those who choose to carry it around like a badge of honour that reads, "Indignant, and rightfully so."

So easily offended and never seeing that the problem is within them, but most often they would rather place the blame on someone, anyone else, rather than accept responsibility and acknowledge that it is their choice to be offended.



In the last days multitudes (the majority) are going to be offended, left unresolved that offense will cultivate betrayal and betrayal will foster hatred!

*“and many false prophets
will appear and deceive many people” V 11.*

Who are the many the false prophets will deceive?

THE OFFENDED

The offended persons mind is the breeding ground of
DECEPTION

Deception is deceiving - The person who is deceived believes they are in the right, when really they are operating in a manner contrary to Biblical instruction

“Because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of most will grow cold” V12

Offended reasoning isolates people in their thinking to mistrust and seek their own counsel instead of obeying the clear word of God - Lawlessness

Betrayal + hatred is lawless (anti God) thinking!
The absence of Agape love

**Offense = The fire +
passion for God will grow cold**



All offended people can all be put into 2 categories

- 1. Those who have been genuinely mistreated**
- 2. Those who think they have been genuinely mistreated**

**If you have been mistreated
do you have the right to be offended?**

**If you want to walk with God
you have no right to be offended!**

**An offended Christian who will not forgive
is a person who has forgotten what they have
been forgiven of – Living in deceit!**

Our commitment to forgiveness has to be inexhaustible as demonstrated in Christ

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.

He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



Being Offended

Causing Offense

**So I strive always to have a conscience without
offense toward both God and man. Acts 24:16**

Being Offended

When we have been offended by someone's words or actions we need to be mature and go to our brother or sister as a peace maker - **Humility**

If I wallow in being slighted, resentful and refuse not to go and reconcile - **Pride**

If I continually hurt people and refuse not to take responsibility and change my ways – **Pride**

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. Isaiah 42:3

Causing Offense

**We need to be mature enough not to damage people
(cause offense) with our words or actions**

**When we are aware that we have offended someone
we should be quick to apologise - Humility**

**If I hurt someone even unintentionally and refuse
not to take responsibility and change my ways - Pride**

***A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. Isaiah 42:3
but woe to him/her through whom offenses do come!***

Pray: I tell you pray for anyone who mistreats you: Matthew 5:44

Go and go in grace: “So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and suddenly remember that a friend has something against you or you have something against them, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar and go and apologize and be reconciled to him, and then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

Matthew 5:23-24

“If a brother sins against you, go to him privately and confront him with his fault. If he listens and confesses it, you have won back a brother. But if not, then take one or two others with you and go back to him again, proving everything you say by these witnesses. If he still refuses to listen, then take your case to the church, and if the church’s verdict favours you, but he won’t accept it, then the church should excommunicate him.

Matthew 18:15-17

Forgive-Unity is built upon it: Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Colossians 3:13

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Luke 6:37

Reconcile-as if it never happened: All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them:

2 Corinthians 5:19

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.
Proverbs 10:12

The word "LURED" is written in a large, serif font. A fishing hook is positioned over the letter 'U', with the line extending upwards and to the right. The background is a dark, textured blue-green, resembling water or a deep sea environment.

LURED

Unforgiveness is an acid in the container it dwells in

Don't take the Bait

Sowing unity

Sowing discord

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:3