

## **DON'T TAKE OFFENSE**

Do you ever spend time around people who are always mad? Who constantly analyze everything they hear, looking for some reason to take offense? Many give up on God and life, all because somehow, somewhere, they were offended and wounded in their souls. Nothing in life starts big: the same with offense. An offense always starts as a thought, and thoughts are seeds that enter your mind. Seeds of offense are the beginning of developments of offense in our lives. But we have the ability to refuse the thought or uproot the seed before an offense is fully-grown in the garden of our hearts. **Matthew 24:10-14 Matthew 11:2-6**

The Bible has a lot to say about offenses. In Matthew 24:10 Jesus says one of the signs of the last days would be the fact that many would be offended.

**Offense** – a cause or occasion to sin; something that outrages the moral or physical senses; the state of being insulted or morally outraged; violation or breach of a law, custom, rule, etc. / a lack of politeness; a failure to show regard for others; wounding the feelings of others.

**OFFENSE IS A SPIRITUAL SEED** - There are four ways those seeds get sown into us: What others said/What others did not say /What others did /What others didn't do for us.

Offense is a spiritual weed that has to come out of our lives.

- ROOT OF BITTERNESS (James 3:14-16, Ecclesiastes 7:9)
- FRUIT OF RESENTMENT (Matt. 12:33-35, Hebrews 12:15)

This comes out of you in two ways:

What you say – People that are under a spirit of offense are usually critical, aggressive, and they are always ready to judge everyone else around them.

What you do – People that are controlled by offense do what the Bible calls “the works of the flesh.”

**A. What Offences Represent In Our Lives** Luke 17:1 James 4:17 Proverbs 6:16-19  
“Stumbling block” (Grk) in this verse is “skandalon”, where we get the word scandal. When we offend, or are offended, the offense hinders our ability to do what God has called us to do.

### **B. The results of not handling offense**

The devil uses offense to divide and conquer even the best of Christians.

Offense is a weapon used by the enemy: Proverbs 18:19 Luke 22:31-34 Mark 14:29-30

### **C. God's counsel on how to respond to offenses.**

Luke 17:3-4 Matthew 18:15-16 John 16:1 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

### **D. Plan for the next Offense before it comes.** Acts 24:16 James 3:13

-Cultivate the fruit of the Spirit. Ephesians 5:9

-Keep Your Cool. James 3:18

-Keep in mind that when a comment seems offensive that it may not be aimed specifically at you. It may be a casual --comment and the person is unaware that you are taking it personally.

- Avoid jumping to conclusions.

- Talk to the person cordially about how you feel. The person might not realize that she has offended you. Talking over the issues can help to resolve misunderstandings, hidden anger and frustration.

-Think positive and stop brooding over the offense.

-Forgive – Jesus told Peter to forgive 70X7.

- Live your life, in the Word of God. Psalms 119:165

-Learn from your experience and be careful the next time you speak or do something. It may save a person who is overly sensitive a lot of grief.