

# DEALING WITH OFFENCES



## Background Reading:

Matthew 18:6-11; Luke 17:1-2;  
1 Corinthians 10:32; 2 Corin-  
thians 6:3; Romans 4:25

## Devotional Reading:

Romans 5:12-21



## Central Verse

**“And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.”**

**Acts 24:16, KJV**

**“So, I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.”**

**Acts 24:16, NIV**

## Key Terms

**Cognizable**—capable of being judicially heard and determined.

**Non-Cognizable**—incapable of being judicially heard and determined.

**Annoyance**—the act of annoying someone or of being annoyed.

**Bullying**—abuse and mistreatment of someone vulnerable by someone stronger, more powerful, etc.: the actions and behavior of a bully.

## Introduction

No one in their right mind wants to be offended, it is not a nice position to be in. It is extremely uncomfortable and most of the time it deals with the emotions of a person from a negative aspect. My parents told me it was wrong to offend others, but it was also wrong to allow someone to willfully offend me. Mother insisted that we work on ourselves and work on making sure that we were mindful of others' feelings. Offense is a breach of a law or rule; an illegal act is an annoyance or resentment brought about by a perceived insult to or disregard for oneself according to the Oxford Dictionary. Webster's Dictionary says it is an act of stumbling, a cause or occasion of sin, a stumbling block. There are two classes of offenses, one is cognizable and the other one is non-cognizable offenses.

Jesus was clear on offenses against another, for it seemed that He had little tolerance for those who willfully offended others.

## Discussion

Jesus very plainly informed His followers that offenses would come, but the person who committed the offense was in huge trouble. Get ready for offenses and prepare yourself in every way. Get ahold of your emotions and your feelings, so that you can be prepared to respond in a godly fashion. Believers must always remember who they are. They must remember that they are a follower of Jesus Christ. That they are always a representative of Jesus. When a believer is offended, it is a good thing when he can ask himself, what would Jesus do if He found Himself in this situation?

When a believer is offended by someone and responds in an extremely negative way, oftentimes it shows how immature he is in the Lord. Life gives a believer enough hard knocks without his brother or sister bullying him. Sometimes offenses are just another type of bullying, especially those persons who are weaker than normal. But the believer should be his brother's keeper. Instead of bullying or being offensive toward the weaker brother, he should try to strengthen him.

Bullying has become a national concern in the United States of America. Young children in schools are often afraid to go to school because of the hurtful things that are being said and done to them. Many youth in America turn to drugs, violence, and suicide and lose the battle of survival daily because of this evil wicked practice. Many are not aware that there are Suicide and Crisis lifelines set up 24 hours a day, free across the nation to help those that recognize they need help. There are trained Crisis Counselors available to help a person deal with this emotional trauma.

The Church of Jesus Christ and the prayer warriors have the power and the authority to pray a person to deliverance. If they do not, it is nothing wrong with a believer seeking professional help in this area.

As a believer matures, he will reach a place in God where he will not be easily offended. He must reach a place in his life where he is comfortable in his walk with God and know his faith in God is secure. Then he will not be so easy to give offense to others so that he can protect the ministry. The believer must be as diligent as Abraham was as he believed in God and remained

strong in his faith, giving glory to God, for he knew that Jesus Christ was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification (Romans 4:20-25). Jesus suffered for the entire world because of the offenses of all. That the believer could be free from the penalty of death and that he may be able to be justified for the rest of his life.

## Conclusion

Jesus told His disciples that offenses would come, but the offender would be in trouble, for it would be better for him if he was in a lake with a millstone around his neck than to offend one of God's little ones. Many times, believers are offended by others in the church, and it affects them in such a negative way that they become unfruitful to the body of Christ. God wants the believer to be more rooted and grounded in Him through love than that. The believer must allow the love of God and the Word of God to generate more faith in him through God's Word.

He must remember that Jesus said that offenses would come, but He also told the believer that He would handle the person who gives the offense. God has a greater ability to take care of offenses than any believer. Some things are God's business, and the believer must allow God to handle His business by removing himself from God's way. Sometimes God wants the believer to grow some tuff skin, so he can be able to endure some offenses. The believer must grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The believer deals with some offense by being mature enough to walk carefully so that he is void of offense between God and man and by letting God handle what he cannot.

## Questions

1. What causes one person to offend another person?
2. How can a believer deal with an offence?
3. What is God's part when an offender offends a believer?
4. What can a believer do to avoid offending others?

## Essential Thought

Offenses will come, but the offender will pay for his part of the offense.