

**"I'm Fine!" - Part 1**  
**"The Truth about Offense"**  
**July 24th, 2022**

Intro:

**Brotherhood Launch - Saturday Morning, August 20th - 9 - 11:30am**

- Today we are beginning a 3 part series called, "I'm Fine... Clearly you're Not!" & it's All about Offense!!!

- I hope you'll prioritize these weeks, they're huge for our hearts!

- SHOW OF HANDS - ? How many of you have lost a friendship in the last few years b/c of Offense on 1 side or the other?

- So this Topic is Super Relevant isn't it???

Today I want to talk about  
2 Types of Offense:  
1) Generalized  
2) Specific!

**PRAY**

- We are Living in the most Unprecedented Time in History where Offense is concerned! - I have never seen it so awful!

- A # of contributing factors to that, but a few of the leading ones are:

1) Polarization of Political Leaders & Agendas.

2) News Media Outlets who Capitalize (make \$\$) on Fear, Anger & Division! (*Who are they trying to get me offended by, afraid of / to hate?*)

3) Social Media - Everyone has a Platform to Fully Vent their Opinions, Anger & Agendas in Full View of everyone else!

- It feels "Not Real," but it is very much "Real!"

- That's the Natural Part, but there is Also a Very Spiritual Thing happening in our world today too!

- There is a Real Enemy called the Devil who Hates Love & Unity & anything that resembles Godliness, he is using every possible tactic available to "Kill, Steal & Destroy."

**John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy..."**

- This is satan's strategy! Do we all agree?

The Natural Elements + Play  
the Spiritual Ones,

Easily Offended

Now... with that backdrop in mind, & ~~being fully aware of satan's strategy~~, let me ask you... Have you noticed how ~~often~~ you get ~~offended~~ lately?

- "Oh no, not me, Pastor Matt! I'm good! I stay above the fray!" - I know.

✱ - Point at the Graphic & the Pinocchio Nose!!!

- GENERALIZED OFFENSE & SPECIFIC OFFENSE

- Offense takes on a whole bunch of different forms throughout our day!

- Eye rolls
- Angry outbursts
- Turning off the Channel
- Scoffing
- Making a Snide Comment
- Laughing under your breath
- Gossiping when they leave the room
- Judging their heart based on your perception of their actions
- Labeling someone in your mind!

- Forming a Negative Opinion about someone based on Someone Else's Opinion!

- Closing your heart off to someone

- All Day Long our Heart is Collecting these Little "Micro Offenses" & it Generalized IS Affecting us!!!

- Offense is a HUGE Deal in the Life of us as Jesus Followers!

- It affects us, those around us & our Rel w/ God in huge ways!

I John 2:11 (NKJV) "But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

- Now, at 1st read we go, "Oh good, that's not me, b/c I don't "hate" anybody!" - Oh, I know... but wait: To Love Less Than...

- "Miseo" - "To detest on a comparative moral basis."

- IOW, when I compare how I perceive what you did, to how I perceive my own heart & motives, I judge you as less than!

- This is the same word as in...

- That's what it means to "Hate!"

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother... such a person cannot be my disciple."

- To love them Less than Him!

- So look at it again... (loves less than himself)

I John 2:11 (NKJV) "But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

- Jesus said "Love your neighbor as you Love yourself!"

- Samaritans are our Neighbors!!! Those Polar Opposite of us!

*"Love Suffer Less"*  
- John says that when you & I walk around w/ Offense in our Heart, we are "Walking in Darkness!" *Bk of a Moral Judgment*

- Is it any wonder our world is stumbling & fumbling so much?
- According to the Bible, the Perpetuation of Offense is **BLINDING US!**

- Thankfully, we don't have to take our cues from the World, the News Media or People on Social Media,

- Its possible to Learn to Live Unoffended in a world Full of Offense!

**John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."**

- Jesus came so we could live differently.

#### 4 Truths of Offense:

### **1. Living Offended is Satan's Strategy in our Lives.**

*Generalized Offense! & Specific Offense!*

**A. Big or Small, He's trying to get us Offended... all the time!**

- w/ our spouse, our friends, co-workers, leaders, strangers!

**B. We've all been around people who are just Mad at Everybody, all the time, haven't we?**

- ? Are they attractive or no? *? Do you want to be like them?*
- So why wouldn't satan try and make everybody mean & mad & frustrated & joyless & afraid & angry through Offense all the time?
- It's a brilliant strategy, isn't it???
- & it's working in our world **UNLESS** we do something to fight against it!

### **2. Living Offended Hinders Us.**

**A. BUILDING A WALL AROUND OUR HEART ILL.**

- When we get hurt, we decide "Nobody's gettin' in!"
- We begin to lay bricks around our heart, 1 offense at a time!

- Over time we become Disconnected from Reality & all we see is the picture we have created on the inside of our wall!!!

B. Here's the thing about Walls... They keep the Bad things out, but they also keep the Good Things out as well! *STARVE THEM OUT - MILITARY*

- Eventually, the things of God start to stay out too! *STRATEGY ILL. - That's the Devil's Strategy w/us!!!*

C. KINKED HOSE ILL.

- Over time, the flow of the Spirit dries up in our lives b/c of offense.  
- Living Offended Stops the Flow of the Spirit in our Lives.

### 3. Living Offended doesn't just Affect us.

A. Blame.

- When we are Offended, our Knee-Jerk Reaction is to Blame, isn't it?

- *"If they wouldn't have..."*      - *"If they didn't..."*  
- *"If those leaders wouldn't..."* - *"If she would have..."*  
- *"I wouldn't be here, feel like this, IF they hadn't \_\_\_\_\_."*

B. Whenever we Blame, we always Put Distance between Us & Others!

Hebrews 12:15 "Make sure that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many."

C. There are 3 Promises in this Verse: Bitterness will...

- 1) Spring Up - Can't Pretend / Cover it forever.
- 2) Cause Trouble - It's gonna be Ugly & Disruptive.
- 3) Define Many - It won't just affect us!

D. Living Offended affects more than just us!!!

### 4. Living Offended Breaks the Heart of God.

A. Our sin separated us from God & it required Jesus coming to this earth & dying a bloody death so we could be forgiven & reconciled back to Rel. w/ God.

- & yet, we look at someone who has done FAR LESS than that, & we can't forgive them?!?

*SIT.*  
B. GOD SPEAKING TO ME ABOUT MY FRIEND ILL. (SIT DOWN!)

- A while back, I had a friend who caused a lot of hurt & pain in my life.

- 1 Afternoon, Sarah showed me a post on Insta that I knew was aimed at me!!!

- I lost it! I got angry, mad, upset... all the adjectives!

- I didn't say "Expletives! I said Adjectives!"

- The next morning God said, "Matt, we need to talk about this..."

- He showed me that this person was still serving the Lord & yet, I was holding on to all this bitterness & anger against a Fellow Christian!

- Then God showed me how much Grace he had given ME & yet I was not wanting to Show this person the same Grace I had received!

- I had to Repent to God for wanting to Receive His Grace but not wanting to give it to someone who had done far less to offend me than I had done to offend the heart of God!

- It was a Defining Moment in my Heart!!!

## What is Needed?

### 1. Grace.

A. Nobody's Perfect.

- The same grace we have received is the grace we need to give.

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

**B. GOD TELLING ME - With the same grace I have received, I am to pray that grace upon them.**

## **2. Forgiveness.**

**A. I no longer hold this against you. I'm letting God decide from now on.**

- "Judge" - to Decide.
- It's not mine to Decide, it's God's!

**B. Diff. between Forgiveness & Reconciliation.**

- That doesn't mean we have let them back into our life.
- Someone from my past texted me: "I don't trust them anymore."
  - I replied, "Thx man."
  - Boundary → Move on that Next Week!

## **3. Empathy.**

**A. Lit. means "the ability to understand & share the feelings of another."**

- As Christians, we need to Lead in Empathy in our World today.
- Seek to Understand b/f we Pass Judgment, b/c we Just. Don't. Know.
  - Empathy is Christlike!

**Matthew 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged."**

**B. We don't have to Agree w/ People to Empathize with them.**

- This is so huge in our world today... b/c we just don't know what's going on! *Generally →*
  - When you watch the news or read something, Start w/ Empathy 1st, not your Political Opinion on the Issue!
  - Why? B/c these are People Jesus died for too!

*Specifically →*

**C. A FRIEND FROM A WHILE BACK - TRAUMATIZED BY MEN ILL.**

- So when they picked up some offense toward me, I had a greater understanding of why!

**- So what's Needed? 1) Grace 2) Forgiveness 3) Empathy.**

## **Altar Call:**

- It's time to Forgive & lay down the Offense you've been carrying around!**
- It's time to pick up Grace & Empathy toward those who have offended us!**
- Some of us have some big Rocks of Offense that we have been carrying around for a long time!**
  - It's time to Forgive & let it go.**
- Open up the Altars, if you need to come & lay it down, it's time!**

**RUN TO THE FATHER**