

KINGDOM COMMUNITY: No Offence Taken!

As a forerunner, my job is to challenge you; cause you to question everything until you do everything out of faith and truth. During this process you may get offended with me. People got offended with Jesus.

We are not responsible for other people's reactions to us. We are only responsible for our own reactions, *PLUS* the way we say things and the way we do things.

VIEW: T.D. Jakes video "Destiny Steps Series: Removing The Barriers To Destiny"

LINK: (www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEkbsGHMv8)

People were offended at Jesus.

Matthew 13:57 (NET) – *And so they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own house."*

Matthew 15:12 (NET) – *Then the disciples came to him and said, "Do you know that when the Pharisees heard this saying they were offended?"*

Matthew 11:6 (ISV) – *How blessed is anyone who is not offended by me!*"

Matthew 11:6 (NET) – *Blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."*

Offence has its roots in woundedness and pride. Offence is very easily caused by religion and it's underlying source: the spirit of religion. At it's core, 'self' is the origin of offence – notice we say, "I am offended". This is because we're not getting our own way, not getting what we want, and others are not in agreement with us.

As offence is based on 'self', it's a soulish phenomenon and not a Kingdom attribute – it's not a fruit of the Spirit. We must not accept our occasions of being offended. We must repent of it and open ourselves up to the Lord to change this iniquity that's in our heart.

Here's some examples:

- If I don't celebrate Christmas and Easter as Holy Days – no one should get offended.¹
- If you don't financially support me on the overseas mission trip I'm going on – I shouldn't get offended.
- If I don't join your 40-day fast for the nation of Australia – you shouldn't get offended.
- If someone decides to leave our fledgeling community and return to the church system – we should not be offended.
- If I don't pray for you when you ask me – you should not be offended.
- If someone's spiritual growth and development is proceeding at an exponential rate – none of us should get offended at them.
- If you are challenged by a teaching given under the direction of Holy Spirit – some may get offended. It's not right, but interesting in it's exposure.
- If your spiritual gift isn't as powerful as someone else's – you should not be offended.
- If the person you want to do something nice for won't permit you to do it – you should not get offended.

¹ – We have freedom to select or reject festivals. (Colossians 2:16-17) Special days are religious activities. (Galatians 4:9-11)

- If some of us have a different theology in an area to others – we shouldn't be offended at each other.
- If fellow believers call us heretics – we should not get offended.

Children get offended when their parents – who are responsible for them – require them to operate in certain ways so that they grow up and learn to become responsible adults. Some believers get offended when leaders present teaching that is intended to grow them.

REMINDER: 'Edifying' is about maturing, not about making others feeling good.

I can image that some of the Corinthian community getting offended with Paul comment about them in his epistle:

1 Corinthians 3:1 (ISV) – *Brothers, I couldn't talk to you as spiritual people but as worldly people, as mere infants in the Messiah.*

Here's some edifying teaching that's possibly offensive.

(1) Having to Change to Live in the Kingdom

Some get offended when they are informed that their lifestyle has to change to comply with the Kingdom. This is especially the case when it comes to being obedient to the Spirit.

FACT: Being in the Kingdom requires us to submit to the will of the King. We are to do what the King wants us to do. Anything else is the freedom we have in his domain, provided we stay within his righteous parameters.

(2) The Origins of Religion

Some will get offended when they are informed of the origins of religion.

Christian religion is based on occult foundations because Constantine joined the early church with pagan ritual.

FACT: The occult operates using symbols and ceremonies.

As an example: *The masonic rite of entry* – This requires the initiate to empty his pockets of all money, but have to pay a tribute to 'god' to enter into the order, a symbol of giving in to a greater power. In the ceremony, after he expresses difficulty in doing so as he has no money, one of the Masons comes forward and gives him a Masonic coin with which to pay the tribute. This is to show symbolically that he is dependant on his 'brother' Masons.

(3) Difficult Teaching

READ: "The Dangers of Soulsh Life" by Watchman Nee

LINK: (<http://articles.ochristian.com/article1946.shtml>)

(4) Everything Must Change – Singing is to Become Action

We must grow up and keep maturing to new levels all the time.

For example: Throneroom worship in the book of Revelation is what the departed saints and throneroom beings do. We think we should copy heaven because that's the highest way.

This is not what we're to do as our prime activity here on Earth. We ignore our responsibilities here on Earth when we just give him lip-service by just singing or saying things that should actually be done (carried out).

Jesus and apostles of the 1st church didn't focus on singing worship. As sons of the Kingdom we are to follow their example and live the Kingdom life by being about our King's business.

A person shows that they are offended when they say, "I'm not at that level".

READ: "KINGDOM: Exalting and Magnifying the King"

LINK: (<http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/KINGDOM-exalting-and-magnifying-the-king.pdf>)

>>> If you find offence rising up, KILL IT!

Laurence

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