

We Need To Be Offended

We've had biblical teaching on offending others¹ and this has caused us to have a narrow view of the topic. We therefore go to great lengths to not offend other believers – well, we used to in days gone by. Also interfering with our understanding is the use of “offense” in the KJV and the NKJV which really means ‘sinning against someone’ rather than offending them. There's more we need to know.

We need to listen to what the Spirit is teaching us and move with our new understanding. This allows us to be wiser and more mature than verse-quoters. And, of course, our responsibility in the Kingdom is to grow and mature as sons, not stagnate with the limited spiritual knowledge that's in the Bible. Remember it's Holy Spirit who was been given to us to be our teacher,² no one else and nothing else.

Regarding being offended, it's interesting to note that Jesus wasn't offended by sinners. The religious leaders of his day were actually offended at him.³ He wasn't offended when his town rejected him,⁴ rather, they were the ones who were offended by him.

Paul wasn't offended by sinners or idol worshippers. However, he was hostile towards the sin of believers and their failure to keep the evil of the world out of their lives and their spiritual community. He was righteously offended by the Judaisers who were working to take them back into the Law (Torah).

What was dropped into my spirit about ‘offence’ and which I have subsequently proved to myself to be correct is this: Offence shows us what's in our heart (viz. our attitudes and belief system).

I remember teaching in my first Christian Community school in Canberra which was a time that led up to my retirement. When I arrived, there were Christian teachers there who hated the new principal because he changed the way they wanted the school to be run. Their hate manifested in back-biting and criticism, but I really remember them being offended whenever he addressed a staff meeting. Their hearts manifested on these occasions and it displayed on their faces and in the atmosphere they generated in the meetings.

In the past, I was highly offended by other Christians. This was because I was operating in religion and legalism, not with the characteristics of a son of the Most High God. Since eliminating both religion and legalism I am interacting and relating to others in a much different way. Looking back, I thought I was right in my theology and took on a stance of self-righteousness when others differed vastly from my beliefs. I can now see that I was offended by them, and that was PRIDE in my heart. They exposed my heart, but I was blind to it at that time.

Yes, when we are offended it causes our heart to be displayed. Actually, it's our heart and mind that are offended by someone and we react accordingly, manifesting what's there.

Are you offended by the gay community? Then ask yourself, “Why?” If you say you are righteously offended because God is offended by them, check out what your understanding of God is. You will most likely have an OT or legalistic view of him. True, homosexuality is wrong, but Father still sees each gay person as his gem. Don't believe me? Why did Jesus hang out with sinners? Why didn't Paul castigate unrighteous society?

Employees, are you offended by your boss when they correct or chastise you? Analyse yourself, and see what's in your heart.

Wives, with the influence of women's lib, are you offended by your husbands when he says or does certain things? Check yourself out.

1 – e.g. Romans 14:20-21; 16:17; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

2 – John 14:26 (1 Corinthians 2:13)

3 – Matthew 15:12

4 – Matthew 13:57

Husbands, do you get offended with your wife? Check yourself out as well.

You see, we have a lot to be deprogrammed of so we line up with how the Kingdom operates.

In conclusion, we need to be offended by others, especially by our Kingdom family. We need it as a wake-up-call that our attitudes are wrong and need to change. Without someone offending us we think 'we've arrived' and are satisfied with ourselves. We should enjoy being offended because it will lead us to change ourselves so we grow spiritually, if we are wise enough to let it.

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