



How things fit together in the Kingdom

Dealing with Offence

(This Document is a compilation of previous articles¹ so that information is in one location)

Introduction

Offence (being offended) has its roots in woundedness and pride. At its core, ‘self’ is the origin of offence – notice we say, “**I** am offended”. That’s because we’re not getting our own way, or not getting what we want, or others aren’t agreeing with us. The lack of agreement can cause offence very easily when it’s caused by religion and its underlying source: the spirit of religion. We’re all familiar with that.

As offence is based on ‘self’, it’s a soulish reaction and not a Kingdom attribute – i.e. it’s not a fruit of the Spirit. That should inform us that it’s not a way for sons to react, so it definitely needs to be dealt with. We can’t keep allowing it to occur, just because “everyone else is doing it”. We must be more spiritually mature than that. We must not accept our occasions of being offended. We must repent of them (turn away from being offended)² and open ourselves up to the Spirit to change this impurity that’s in our heart.

Offending others can also be a response that’s outside of the parameters of sonship. On one side, we are not responsible for other people’s reactions to us, but we are responsible for our own reactions to them. On the other hand, we are also responsible for the way we say things and the way we do things, so we don’t unrighteously cause offence in others.

People were offended by Jesusⁱ and by what he saidⁱⁱ. The religious spirit stirred up the religious and the legalistic people of his day so they were affronted by him, as well as by who he claimed to be. That’s because what they heard and saw didn’t fit with their legalism which they thought was godly.

The same can happen today when believers, as well as the public, are ‘put off’ by Kingdom pioneers and forerunners. We are to expect this because, when we are effective, we impact the world around us and turn it upside down (the right way up).ⁱⁱⁱ Our response to such people has to be gentle, but firm, gracious and loving. That was Jesus’ and Paul’s response. The wrong reaction from us can stir up the enemy so that people become unduly aroused against us. Even when we respond without aggression, they may still become aggressive, but that’s not our responsibility.

Again, we are not to go ‘out of our way’ to intentionally offend others, unless we are led by the Spirit to do so. Jesus was able to do it that way when speaking to the religious leaders.^{iv} However, there’s a tendency for us to copy his actions,³ but we must check our heart before we do. It’s our heart that determines how we do things and say things, and it’s our heart that Father judges and the Spirit assesses.^v

Examples of Taking Offence

Children get offended with their parents (who are actually responsible for them) when they require them to act in certain ways. They don’t realise that the discipline is for them to learn how to become a

1 – HOW TO: Combat the Spirit of Offence – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/HOW-TO-Combat-the-Spirit-of-Offence.pdf

Beware of Taking Offence – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/beware-of-taking-offence.pdf

KINGDOM COMMUNITY: No offence taken – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/KINGDOM-COMMUNITY-no-offence-taken.pdf

2 – “What is Repentance?” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/What-is-Repentance.pdf

3 – Jesus of Nazareth was a Jewish Rabbi who spoke with the authority that rabbis did. He also argued aggressively with other rabbis which was the way it was done in his day. Even belittling and accusing your opponent with a style of rabbinical argument.

responsible adult. This type of offence isn't righteous because it's based on 'self'. Similarly, believers can act childish and easily get offended within the family of an *ekklesia*.

Here's some examples when believers can get offended with their brothers and sisters:

- If I don't celebrate Christmas and Easter as Holy Days – no one should get offended.⁴
- 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 Kingdom community and return to the church system – we shouldn't be offended.
- If I don't pray for you when you ask me – you shouldn't be offended.
- If someone's spiritual growth and development is proceeding at an exponential rate – none of us should get offended by them.
- If you're challenged by a teaching given under the direction of Holy Spirit – you shouldn't get offended.
- If your spiritual gift isn't as powerful as someone else's – you shouldn't be offended.
- If the person you want to do something nice for won't permit you to do it – you shouldn't get offended.
- If some of us have a different theology in one area to everyone else – we shouldn't be offended by each other.
- If fellow believers call us heretics – we shouldn't get offended.

In a similar way, some believers get offended when leaders present teaching that's intended to help them grow. What they fail to understand is that teaching is to edify them,^{vi} not condemn them.



IMPORTANT: 'Edifying' is about maturing, **not** about making others feeling good.⁵

I can image some of the Corinthian community getting offended with Paul when he commented about their worldliness in one of 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 can be taken objectionably, causing offence:

(1) The Pagan Origins of Religion

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

FACT: The Christian religion is based on occult foundations because Constantine joined the early church with pagan ritual. The occult operates using symbols and ceremonies,⁶ and that's what religion uses.

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

5 – "Edification When We Gather" canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Edification-When-We-Gather.pdf

6 – 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 into 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. (SEE also: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonic_ritual_and_symbolism)

(2) Having to Change to Live in the Kingdom

Some get offended when they're informed that their lifestyle has to change to comply with the Kingdom's standards. 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. That is, we're to do what the King wants us to do. Anything else we do is the freedom we have under his domain, provided we stay within his righteous parameters.

(3) Difficult Teaching

Challenge: Read this article and analyse your reactions.

[ARTICLE - "The Dangers of Soulish Life" by Watchman Nee](#)

[LINK - articles.ochristian.com/article1946.shtml](http://articles.ochristian.com/article1946.shtml)

How Offence Impacts Us

Offence is masterminded by the spirit of offence. Yes, if our actions are outside of the Kingdom, you can guarantee that the enemy 'has his finger in it' somewhere. This spirit is a liar and feeds us lies. It tells us things that aren't true, but convinces us that they are true.

Here are a number of ways offence will negatively affect our lives:

1. Mind – Offence takes root through our mind. **We actually make a decision to be offended, it's not an accident of circumstances.** Once we submit to offence, a considerable amount of our mental capacity will be transferred to 'feeding' the offence. We will toss it around in our mind continually, even in our sleep. Guard your mind so this doesn't happen.

2. Sight – Our mental vision is impaired once we take offence. We begin to 'see' things that are 'not so'. We will see many things as direct attacks against us when they're not. This intensifies the offence, increases the pain and moves us more into irrational behaviour. We will find that this makes us unable to see what we're doing.

3. Heart – Once offence seats itself in our heart, every single thing we do and say becomes toxic. Why? Our heart becomes so septic that our spoken words and actions destroy everyone who comes in contact with us.

4. Relationships – When offence touches our relationships it will put a wedge between us and others, even our family or friends. We will abandon them and begin to search for people who will listen to us tell our view of the 'story', because our previous acquaintances have become our enemies.

5. Hearing – The spirit of offence will impair our hearing so we hear a distorted account of what others say. Our spiritual 'hearing' will also be extremely tainted and become untrustworthy. We will be hearing lies of the enemy and interpret them as the voice of God.

6. Time – Offence uses up our time which should be spent on Kingdom matters. We become consumed with proving others wrong and ourselves right, with paybacks, and how we can be compensated for our perceived wrongs. Our #1 priority will become ourselves.

7. Health – Offence produces intense negativity which manifests as bitterness, unforgiveness, rage, frustration, groundless worrying, strife, etc. In the end our mental and physical health rapidly declines.

Dealing With Offence

The spirit of offence's purpose is to destroy us – that's always the enemy's ultimate plan. Offence will also provide an open door for other demons to work on us or even take possession of us.

Our attacking strategy against offence is this: **Guard your heart and guard your mind.**

Also, know that **you make the choice of whether you take offence or not.**

There are other proactive actions we can take. For instance, offence is countered by forgiveness and release. On top of those, as we mature, we allow the Spirit to change us from the inside-out so we become **unoffendable**.

Another proactive strategy is to deal appropriately with an offending person so that the situation is mitigated and offence is avoided. Here's an example from scripture:

Matthew 18:15-17 (ISV) – *If your brother sins against you, go and confront him while the two of you are alone. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. But if he doesn't listen, take one or two others with you so that 'every word may be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If, however, he ignores them, tell it to the congregation. If he also ignores the congregation, regard him as an unbeliever and a tax collector.*

The KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE

What's been revealed to us about taking offence?

It's important to realise that taking offence at others is not just human nature, but it's an impediment in our spiritual lives. This is what our King has been saying about it:

*"A spirit of offense is rising and running rampant through the church. **Those who are easily offended are candidates for the Great Falling Away.** Those who cultivate and maintain an unoffendable heart will escape many of the assignments the enemy will launch in the days to come.*

*"For my people must band together in this hour and refuse to allow petty arguments and soulish imaginations separate them. **This is the time to press into community and relationship** and reject the demonic notions and wisdom the enemy is pouring out.*

"The love of many is waxing cold. Brother is turning against brother and sister against sister—in My body. You must come to the unity of the faith in order to accomplish what I've called you to do in this hour. The time is upon you. The opportunity is before you. Lay aside the resentment, bitterness and unforgiveness and, as far as it depends upon you, seek peace with all men.

"Humble yourselves even among those who you feel are your enemies and I will work to bring reconciliation that sets the scene for unity from which the anointing flows. You need My anointing to combat the antichrist spirits rising in this hour.

*"Many of My people are wrestling in their flesh, engaging in works of the flesh, and otherwise letting the flesh lead in battle—and they are battling flesh instead of the spirits influencing the flesh. This is the result of offense. **Forgive, let go, embrace your brothers and sisters despite their flaws and sins. I have.**"⁷*

And:

*"I would have you begin again with new perspective. This will require that you **forgive every person who has offended and hurt you,** no matter how long ago. And that you bless and release them. You must also forgive yourself and release yourself to Me for purification and forgiveness. You cannot continue to hurt others because when you hurt them, you hurt Me and alienate yourself from My blessings."⁸*

*"**You must forgive those who have offended you,** and let go of the past before you can move ahead. They may have sinned against you, but your sin is one of unforgiveness that will be like an anchor that*

7 – Jennifer LeClaire (8/12/2015) "Prophetic Warning: This Destructive Spirit Is Rising Fast"

charismamag.com/blogs/propheticfire/a-prophetic-vision-of-two-rivers-and-a-strong-warning

8 – Marsha Burns "Small Straws in the Soft Wind" (October 3, 2021) www.ft111.com/straws2021.htm

will weigh you down. Do not let that happen.”⁹

“**Refuse to allow frustration to be your driving force.** You may be justified in your grievance, but irritation and resentment will not change anything. It will only block your way to Spirit wisdom and override your ability to love and be at peace. Bring your dissatisfaction to the altar and leave it with Me.”¹⁰

Father told Kriston Couchey, in an interaction with him, that offence prevents us from having deep oneness with him and from seeing with his eyes. As these two are important features of mature sonship, it is to our great benefit that we eliminate offence from our lives – with Holy Spirit’s help, of course.

“In your pride you harbored offense towards the world and those who claimed to know me yet wounded and opposed you out of their own unmet needs. This pride, judgment, and offense were the very things that kept you from oneness with Me and kept you from seeing people the way I do. When you died to your pride, judgments and **offenses** you were then able to see things through my eyes of love.”¹¹

A Personal Note

For me, it’s been important to receive the message about offence because Father told me he wanted me to go deeper in our oneness together.¹² When he sent me Kriston Couchey’s book, I got more information about oneness to help me on that journey to go deeper.

>>This is why it’s very important that we share our revelations with each other.



If you feel offence rising up, KILL IT!

Laurence

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[Based on a compilation of my articles from 2013, 2015 & 2017]

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10 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (November 11, 2021) www.ft111.com/straws2021.htm

11 – Kriston Couchey “An Adventurer’s Guide To The Next Age: A prophetic Journey out of religion into union with God” [Kindle Ed. p:21] www.amazon.com.au/ADVENTURERS-GUIDE-NEXT-AGE-prophetic/dp/B097BSKTKS

12 – “The Word – July 2021” point #18
canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/The-Word-July-2021.pdf

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i – Matthew 11:6 (ISV, NET)

ii – Matthew 13:57; 15:12 (NET)

iii – Acts 17:6 (NKJV)

iv – Matthew 3:7; 12:34; 21:11-13; 23:33

v – Hebrews 4:12

vi – Romans 14:19 (NIV); 15:2 (NKJV); 1 Corinthians 14:3, 12, 26 (NKJV); Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV);
2 Corinthians 12:19 (NKJV); 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NKJV); 1 Timothy 1:4 (NKJV)