

OUTGROWN 6: Unoffendability

THE SPARK (Prov 19:11. Heb 12:15, Col 4:13)

"It's not just that we should be LESS EASILY OFFENDED. We need to become UNOFFENDABLE."

* When an offence seed lands, is it going to be the SPIRITUAL man/woman that arises or the CARNAL?

→ *Would you say you were quick to take offence or not? Do you know the sparks that tend to challenge you? Is it certain types of people or situations or threats? Why is taking offence carnality rather than spirituality?*

WHY ARE WE STILL VULNERABLE TO OFFENCE

1. Your natural PERSONALITY is vulnerable to certain forms of 'perceived' INTIMIDATION, so you SELF-PROTECT.
2. We have deep, old WOUNDS we will do anything to safeguard, so we 'HEDGEHOG.'
3. Our minds become trained to 'WORST-CASE-SCENARIO,' so we teach ourselves to RECOIL in certain situations, just in case it goes where we fear it might.

→ *Are you aware of any personality traits that make you vulnerable to offence? Why does it do so?*

→ *Do you have any wounds you're guarding? Any raw nerves that keep getting exposed? How do you guard them? If you're honest, are those methods positive or negative, constructive or destructive?*

→ *Are you prone to magnification or exaggeration? Does your fantasy world ever take you to dangerous places? How does that potentially lead to problems with offence?*

HERO OF UNOFFENDABILITY

JOSEPH had numerous excellent OPPORTUNITIES to take offence, but refused to allow offence to STEAL his DESTINY.

→ *Why is Joseph such a hero of unoffendability? Can you think of any other good biblical example? (Other than Jesus – Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!)*

THE THEORY

(Based on Eph 4:26-27 principle): "In your offence do not sin: Do not let the sun go down before you have forgiven & do not give the devil a foothold."

* If you allow the seed of OFFENCE to take root in the soil of INSECURITY, it produces a root of BITTERNESS leading to the fruit of RESENTMENT (Prov 29:25, 4:23).

→ *Why are offence seeds & personal insecurity a deadly combination? What are the perils of bitterness & resentment? How can they affect relationships?*

→ *"Unforgiveness is like drinking poison but expecting the other person to die." "Unforgiveness is choosing to stay trapped in a jail cell of bitterness, serving time for someone else's crime." Discuss!*

* There are things it's RIGHT to be offended, disappointed or frustrated with. The question is, what are you going to DO with it?

→ *Can you give examples of things you probably should be offended by? How do you make sure you use those constructively, not destructively?*

Quick Summary

- a) It is possible for offence to SPILL OVER & become SINFUL.
- b) Unforgiveness gives the Devil a FOOTHOLD.
- c) The secret: Before the sun goes down, FORGIVE & let offence GO.

→ *How does offence give the devil a 'foothold'? How does forgiving 'before the sun goes down' protect against that?*

YOU'LL NEVER BE UNOFFENDABLE IF

1. You always have to WIN the ARGUMENT.
2. You're still convinced everyone else ought to PAY the PRICE.
3. You've not taken your WOUNDS to the HEALER.
4. You're a JUDGER, not a DISCERNER.
5. Until GRACE rules, everywhere, all the time.
6. You still think it's a good thing for ANGER to be the dominant FORCE & loudest VOICE.
7. Until you grasp there's a gospel imperative that says, because I've been FORGIVEN, I have an OBLIGATION to FORGIVE.

→ *Why are each of these impediments to unoffendability? Would you say any of them were a particular issue for you? Which have you successfully overcome & how?*

HOW DO WE BECOME UNOFFENDABLE?

1. Truly grasping the importance & power of FORGIVENESS.
2. Become completely filled with & governed by GRACE.
3. Having a strong WORD-FILTER over your thoughts.
4. AWARENESS: Acknowledging the wound.
5. WRITE the word 'unoffendable' on your FOREHEAD!

→ *Which of these are strengths for you? Any potential weaknesses? What could you practically do to bridge any gaps?*

WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH 'CLOTHED WITH POWER?'

- * Our Kingdom mandate is to be: BLESSERS (not cursers), agents of GRACE (in a world of ungrace), motivated by what the SPIRIT is saying (rather than sidetracked by what our flesh is saying).
- * Rather than RECEIVING offence seed, we have ability to PRAY the POWER OF GOD into the very situation that birthed that seed.

→ *How does the Enemy use offence to distract us from our purpose and keep us from God's power? How should we instead pray the power of God?*

RESPONSE: Do you respond to / act on any of these?

1. Make a stake-in-the-ground, once-and-for-all decision that you are going to be a forgiver. *Have you done that? Are there any situations in which you really struggle to forgive or let go?*
2. Take all your unforgiveness to the Lord. *Can your group pray with you?*
3. Ask God to refine you until you are 'always full of grace.' *What does that 'dangerous prayer' look like?*