

SERMON-BASED STUDY: Sitting on Offense

2 Timothy 3:2-4, ESV – ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

Ephesians 4:29, 31-32 - ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ecclesiastes 7:8-9, ESV - ⁸ Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. ⁹ Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart^[a] of fools.

James 1:19-21, ESV - ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week we learned that people are easily offended and often offensive. What does it mean to be offended? What does it mean to be offensive?

2 How can we choose to be inoffensive and unoffendable?

3 Explain the connection between anger and offense.

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Colossians 3:1-10, ESV** - *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

4 What characteristics does this passage relate to the earthly nature? What is to be done with such things? How is this to be accomplished?

5 What effect would setting your mind on things above have on anger and offense? What reason(s) does this passage give for us being able to do this?

6 Pastor Mark talked about “The Unoffendable Cycle of Jesus Christ.” The cycle included slowing down, Sabbath/rest, staying together (koinonia), and contemplative prayer. Which of these would most help you set your mind on things above?

B *Psalm 103:8-14, ESV* – ⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

7 Compare the Psalm passage, which describes God's characteristics, with Colossians 3:1-10. How are these passages connected?

8 Refer to Psalm 103:11-13. Which illustration of forgiveness resonates most with you? Explain why you choose this one.

9 Share how you have personally experienced God's grace. What effect has His grace had on your life?

TAKING IT HOME

This week, we learned being offended and being offensive is a choice we each make in every situation. What relationship in your life needs this lesson? Where might you need to forgive or ask someone to forgive you? What steps can you take this week to live in the "Unoffendable Cycle of Jesus Christ"? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to live fully in the new life you have in Christ.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Proverbs 14:17, 29; 16:32; 19:11

Romans 12:9-21

Ephesians 4:26

Psalm 4:4

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