

Maintaining an Unoffendable Heart: 18th Oct. 2009.

The Problem of Offended Hearts:

Prov. 18:19 “An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city.”

The spirit of offence. It is a stumbling block that causes people to fall.

What causes us to get offended? Who do we get offended by?

We get offended by significant people to us, even by God. Some offence is more perceived than actual.

We can get offended when we are not being valued; not respected or taken seriously. Feel ignored, overlooked and dismissed.

Feeling insulted, put down or unimportant.

Some people seem much more easily offended than others.

Offence is built on previous wounds, insecurities, fears.

Ultimately it is our pride that gets offended. Jesus wants to deal with this and it is the cross that does so – Galatians 5:11(see 1 Cor. 1:23). We need to give up pride in our old self.

1 Peter 2:4-10: Stone (Jesus) causes offence, stumbling to our old life, which is designed to lead us to make Him our cornerstone. This brings a new identity and significance see vs 9-10.

The Key Question: Where is your sense of personal value and significance rooted?

Keys to becoming unoffendable:

You will get hurt, ignored and overlooked at times but you don't have to take offence. See the woman in Matthew 15:21-28 – ignored by Jesus, rejected by His disciples, and then insulted – but she worships and presses in and receives her reward.

Proverbs 19:11 says “it is (man's) glory to overlook an offence.”

1 Cor. 6:7 asks “why not rather be wronged? And 1 Cor. 13:5 says “love keeps no record of wrongs.” We need to give up the ‘right’ to be offended.

Jesus comes to us always full of grace and truth, to free us to live in God's best.

4 steps:

1. Die daily to (let go of) the pride of the old self.
2. Put on (embrace) the new self which is totally secure in Christ: in His acceptance, approval, affirmation and adequacy! He gives you value and significance (Value, Identity and Purpose – V.I.P.). He values you for who you are not for what you can do.
3. When offence is given, refuse to take it; refuse to enter into the spirit of offence.
4. Live continually in an attitude of forgiveness.