

# The Anatomy of an Offense

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**Psalm 119:165 Ampl.** *"Great peace have they who love Your law; nothing shall offend them or make them stumble."*

Word **great** means abundant or safety. Great or abundant peace and safety for those who love Your law or Word, and nothing shall make them stumble. The bible is not an option, if you don't read the Word daily, it's like not eating spiritually. If I have great affection for the Word of God, nothing shall offend me.

Word **offend** in this scripture means to cause to falter, stumble, faint, and fall.

**\*\*An offense is an emotional response to a slight or indignity.\*\***

We get offended because we feel insulted, or belittled. Or it's a response to being hurt by words or actions of others. You can be hurt but not be offended, you grieve but there's no offense attached to it. But when you're hurt and there's an offense attached to it, there's a response.

Responses to offenses:

1. Assault – they attack you, you retaliate. Most of the times, it happens in relationships.
2. A burst of anger
3. Outrage – brings up extreme feelings, mostly of anger. You don't get over it when you're outraged about something.
4. Resentment – much more deadly than anger. Lasting indignation, it simmers until it boils over into outrage. Resentment usually happens over insignificant things.

**Another definition of offense is to cause to falter through weakness of the legs especially ankles, how much in the bible is about how we walk? The weakness that affects you is not in what you do but it's in how you walk your walk with God.**

You've got to take responsibility to how you're \_\_\_\_\_ this Christian life.

## **Matthew 13:41 NKJV**

*"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,"*

The word **offense** in this scripture means entrapment.

## **Proverbs 18:19 NKJV**

*"A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle."*

When someone you're walking with gets offended, or broken away from, it's harder to win than a strong city.

And quarrels between brothers are like the bars of a stronghold that separate you.

You must be aware, and not get offended at God for not doing what you want Him to do when You want Him to do it. The enemy will try to get you offended at God, to make you think God doesn't have your best interest at heart.

## **Matthew 24:3-13 NKJV**

*"Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, 'Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?' Jesus told them, 'Don't let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.'"*

The number one thing when you know it's the end of the age is deception. *If you don't think you can be deceived, you're already deceived.*

**John 15:18-19, 21 NKJV**

*"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you... <sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me."*

15 or so years ago it was cool to be a Christian, but now Christians are the laughingstock. Christianity, the world is trying to wipe it off the face of the earth.

***Will you be offended at God if you get killed for His name sake? If you get hated where you are by your family or job because of your Christianity?***

**In the last 10 – 15 years, there has never been so much offense in the body of Christ. People get offended and they affect someone else.** When you get offended you betray one another, there's a shattering of a relationship and then you betray them.

**1 Peter 4:8**

*"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins."*

When you're someone's friend and you're walking with them, you would never do or say anything to hurt them, but when you're offended, you not only see their faults but you tell everyone else their faults and betray them.

Matthew 24:12 – in this scripture love is not the physical or friendship love but agape love, which is the love that God has for us. In the days we're living, people are not walking in the love of God because love takes no records of wrongs done to it, love believes the best and hopes in all things. If this law was written in our lives, we wouldn't do what we do and say what we say. Memorize the scripture so it is the guardian or barrier around our lives from offense.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 AMP**

*"Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]."*

Matt 24:12 – This scripture isn't talking about the world but about the church, when we don't regulate our lives according to the Word of God and lawlessness abounds, our agape love grows cold and we lose that passion and fire. The word **cold** in this scripture means to stop breathing. *Breathing shallow is a signal for your body to shut down for sleep.* We need to breathe in that agape love, so we may be revived and renewed, if not we will fall asleep.

Matt 24:13 – He who endures, to stay where you're planted to a definite point or goal, will be saved. How many people quit because they don't have a commitment?

Saved in this scripture means **protected**. God will see you through to the end, you will be protected.

**A great book on dealing with offenses is John Bevere's book the *Bait of Satan*.**

**Luke 17:1-5 NKJV**

*"Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him,*

*and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"*

It is impossible that no offenses should come to you your whole life, you will get an opportunity to get offended. The beginning of this scripture says, *Woe to you who causes offense to someone that's weaker in the faith than you are. So watch yourself, take an inventory check of your heart.*

If someone offends you, **rebuke him**. Let him know he's offended you, if you don't bring it out in the open than the other doesn't know that you've been offended. If offense isn't dealt with it turns into a stronghold.

It's not always a intentional hurt from the other person, a lot of times it's how we take what was said to us.

**\*\*You know you're taking an offense, or opening that door when you say, THAT'S JUST NOT RIGHT!\*\***

Do you have a right to hold something against a person that's hurt you when you haven't given them the chance for repentance?

**Romans 16:17 NKJV**

*"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them."*

If someone starts throwing up, we move to get out of the way. Why would you let someone vomit all over you with their offenses? We are in the last days, pray for your brothers and sisters, so that we may not fall into apathy. *You might be the one that can pray them through to victory.*

**\*\*Take some spiritual inventory. God what offenses am I carrying? \*\***