



## **The Spirit of Offense**

There is a spirit of offense that runs rampant on the earth. This is a high-level type of spirit because it affects everyone. Look around you – everyone you see in your personal life, or on the news is offended by someone or something.



God is allowing His people to be tested in order to see who will follow the leading of the Holy Spirit so He can trust them with what He is doing and where He is headed.

Even mature Christians can fall into offense because of **pride and/or rejection**. God is shaking and “pressing us in” so we can be used by Him for such a time as this. There is a storm going on around us, but we are learning to stand (with peace) in the midst of the storm.

# LEVIATHAN SPIRIT



Leviathan uses and reigns over his gang of evil spirits:



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**The Leviathan Spirit works with the  
Spirit of Offense.**

This spirit causes your words to be twisted and used out of context.

**Has that ever happened to you?**

This spirit works against you – and if you work with it you become **defensive** & **argumentative**.

*Be aware of this tactic of the enemy!*

What does offended mean in the Bible?

offend. verb. of·fend ə-'fend. : **to do wrong** : sin. :  
to cause to be angry or annoyed : displease.

What is the root word of offended?

Offended comes from the verb offend, specifically its secondary meaning "to wound the feelings."

The Latin root is **offendere**, "to hit, stumble, provoke, or displease."

## **Root Cause of Offense**

One of the most common roots of offense is insecurity. Insecurities are based on how you feel about yourself and your ideas. When you are challenged, you question your perceptions and begin to feel insecure.

If you have a feeling of inferiority it might seem like everyone else is constantly trying to remind you that you are inferior, so you become easily offended by everything.



If you have emotions like shame, guilt, pride, anxiety, or have suffered humiliation, you can be easily offended. People who have a need to control can be easily offended also.

Some of our past experience have taught us to *assume* another's behavior is meant to be hurtful, hostile, or threatening.

## **What does the Bible say about the Spirit of Offense?**

*Proverbs 9:11* “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is His glory to overlook an offense.”

*Ecclesiastes 7:21-22 (NIV)*

<sup>21</sup> Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—  
<sup>22</sup> for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.

*James 1:19* “Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

*Matthew 18:15-17* “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”

## **What does the Bible say about not being offended?**

Colossians 3:13 <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.



I can suffer a little while without being offended. I can endure an injustice without talking offense. But when the injustice seems too much to bear, when the suffering seems too much to endure, I will probably be offended.

And then I will forgive, not because it's easy – but because it's what God requires.

## **What does the Bible say about taking offense?**

*Proverbs 12:16 (NIV)* <sup>16</sup> Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult.

*Leviticus 19:18(NIV)* <sup>18</sup> Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

*Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NKJV)* <sup>9</sup> “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?  
<sup>10</sup> I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even

to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

"We should be too big to take offense and too noble to give it."

-Abraham Lincoln

**In this age of insults and offense, we as Christians must remember it's a sin to allow other people to offend us and stop us from doing all of what God wants us to do or has called us to do.**

*Matthew 5:16 (NIV)* <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

*1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NIV)* Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude (does not dishonor others), it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.



## EASILY OFFENDED

Taking offense at what someone else says or does is a choice. It not only has profound effects on your mental and emotional well-being, but also on your sense of self-worth. It can lead to conflict with others, or others *walking on eggshells* around you.

### When You Offend Someone:

- Confirm you offended them by sharing what you observe in their behavior
  - They act hurt, they are annoyed or irritated
- If they say they were offended, ask a question to get them talking
- **LISTEN** and try to figure out the source of them being offended by what was said or done
- Show respect
- Explain your side and what you meant
- Be kind and offer an apology for the misunderstanding
  - If you meant what you said/did and realize it was wrong, ask forgiveness





## **Stages of Forgiving Yourself:**

*Responsibility:* Accept what happened and show yourself compassion.

*Regret:* Use conviction and remorse as a way to positive behavior change.

*Repentance:* Ask God to forgive you for what you did/said.

*Reconcile:* Make peace with yourself knowing God forgives you.

*Renewal:* Learn from the experience and grow as a person.

## When you are offended:

- *Caution* – **Danger Will Robinson!** (Remember that show “Lost in Space?”)



Be careful not to let your emotions flair up and dictate the way you respond.

- *Don't react immediately, Stay Calm.* If you go looking for a fight, you will find it.
- *Be confident* in yourself. State how their behavior made you feel and be honest.
- ***Resist the tendency to defend your position.***
- *Give up the need to be right.*
- ***TALK IT THROUGH*** - Be clear with your communication. Describe **BRIEFLY** what happened that felt hurtful or disrespectful.
- *Ask questions* to understand what **REALLY** happened.
- *Be ready to reconcile.* You may have misunderstood the person's intent – or they may have misunderstood yours.



## How to let go of an offense

- *Vent your feelings and frustration* to one trusted friend, or write them down
- *Try to understand* the other person's point of view
- *Pray for God to help you* release it
- *Try counseling*
- *Persist in moving on* and knowing you are a Child of the King
  - Create boundaries and/or distance if necessary
  - Accept the other person may not apologize
- *Pray* for the other person
- **Forgive:** *Mark 11:25-26 (KJV)* “And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. <sup>26</sup> But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

- Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV) <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Should you tell someone if they offended you?

**Yes**. Communication is the key to all relationships.

If you don't believe they were trying to offend you, say so. They will not feel defensive and you will be able to talk to them easier.



Someone who totally ignores consequences of their actions or decisions is irresponsible and you can't expect them to have a healthy relationship with you until they mature. God can change everyone's heart,

but God doesn't expect us to allow other people to abuse or use us. He expects us to be wise as serpents, but gentle as doves. (Matthew 10:16) **Use wisdom.**

## **How can you live a life of being less offended?**

- Put others first.
  - By focusing on others, you'll have less energy to be consumed with how others are letting you down.
- Be grateful and thankful.
- Believe the best in others.
- **Stop** controlling others.
- **Stop** holding grudges.



### ***One last thought.***

**We are not to be like the world and get caught up in a “war of words.” Even if we are right, we should not get defensive and try to justify ourselves.**

***1 Peter 2:8-9 (KJV)*** says <sup>8</sup> And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

<sup>9</sup> But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

***Bottom line: If we stand for the truth – we will be an offense to those who do not know Jesus as Lord.***

***John 13:34 <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.***