

**Let's Be Clear**  
**Getting To The Other Side Of Being Offended**  
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It's hard to be offended by people we're not close to. But if someone we respect and love says or does something careless, we will pick up the offense.

**Psalm 55:12-13** *It is not an enemy who taunts me—I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me—I could have hidden from them. <sup>13</sup> Instead, it is you—my equal, my companion and close friend.*

**PICKING UP AN OFFENSE IS EASY; LAYING IT DOWN IS NOT. THE LONGER WE HOLD ONTO AN OFFENSE, THE HEAVIER IT GETS.**

It's odd that, as Christians, we can be easily offended since our entire faith is built on someone who continually laid down offenses – Jesus.

**We're going to be offended. It will happen.** People often make unwise decisions when they are offended. The offense drives the decision instead of God's wise counsel and His Word.

Satan is a professional liar at creating DIVISION. His three-pronged approach is: **1. Disrupt    2. Divide    3. Destroy**

**1 Peter 5.8** *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

When it comes to our battle with our enemy: **1. Stay alert    2. Watch out and don't check out    3. Be vigilant, and don't get devoured.**

**Ephesians 6.11,12** *Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

**Offenses happen because of the following:** **1. Expectations    2. Transformation fails    3. Pride Display    4. Change and delays**

When we get offended, we get angry. This is what makes the offense so grievous. **We're brilliant in justifying our anger.**

**Luke 23.34** *Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.* Jesus, who had every reason to be offended, asked the Father to forgive people.

If you are in the place God wants you to be, Satan will try to get you offended and get you out. When offended, be mature to realize that...

**1. We have offended others.**

**Colossians 3.13-15** *Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.*

**2. Misunderstandings can be an opportunity for deeper maturity in Christ.**

**Luke 15.20-24** *So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' <sup>22</sup> "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. <sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.*

**Is restoration easy? No. Is restoration, right? Yes**

- Who do you need to let go of the offense?
- When will you do it?
- Have you made allowances for the faults of others?

**PRAYER OF SALVATION**

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and need Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.