

## Podcast Episode Notes

### Season 3 Episode 1 Are You Offended?

It seems like everyone is offended these days, whether it be our opinion on politics, the church, race, vaccines, sports and yes, even masks. Offense usually leads to anger, and we have the bad habit of saying we are “righteously angry” to excuse bad behavior. What do the Scriptures have to say about being offended? And is it possible to choose to not be offended

The Greek word for offense is *skandalon*. In the New Testament, *skandalon* is often used metaphorically for things that arouse offenses, prejudice, or hindrances. These things cause an individual to be “baited” and “trapped” in their thinking. When we pick up an offense (take the bait) we become a carrier of offenses – scandalizing others!

#### Scripture References

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block (*skandalon*) to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16:21-23

“I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles (*skandalon*) in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.” Romans 16:17

“Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble (*skandalon*).” 1 John 2:10

“Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.” Proverbs 17:9

We don't ever have grace to carry offenses. Don't take the bait – don't “pick up” an offense, yours or others. Instead, aim to be unoffendable!

The result of offense is anger. Righteous anger is often used as an excuse for bad behavior. Righteous anger is what biblically makes God angry. If it makes God angry, it should move us to the place of prayer. Ask yourself what can I be doing as a solution? Anything birthed out of offense isn't going to have God's blessing on it.

Ephesians 4:26-27 Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil.

Fruit of leading a life of offense: hatred, deception, bitterness, unforgiveness. The result: our love grows cold. (Matthew 24:3-14)

Enemy can hinder you and often it's through offense.

Tool to use: Minister in the opposite spirit. Be aware. Get softer.

Proverbs 15:1 “A soft answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Proverbs 4:23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”