

# Don't Get Offended

Offense: annoyance or resentment brought about by a perceived insult to or disregard for oneself or one's standards or principles. Oxford Dictionary.

## Instruction on not getting offended:

James 4:11-12

**Do not speak evil against one another, brothers.** The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Matthew 7:1-5

**“Judge not, that you be not judged.** For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Leviticus 19:18

“ ‘Do not seek revenge **or bear a grudge against anyone among your people**, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

James 1:19-20

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and **slow to become angry**, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Proverbs 19:11

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to **overlook an offense**.

## What can offense lead to:

Enmity: opposed or hostile to someone

Strife: angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict

Jealousy: hostile toward a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage

Rivalries: a person or thing competing with another for the same objective or for superiority in the same field of activity

Dissensions: disagreement that leads to discord

Divisions: the action of separating something into parts or the process of being separated

Envy: a feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck

Galatians 5:19-21 **Now the works of the flesh are evident:** sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, **enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy,** drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

In the same category (and sandwiched in between) as:  
sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.

Romans 2:1-4

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, **for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.** Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

## What do we do when we find ourselves getting offended?

Colossians 3:5-11

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.** Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Ephesians 4:25-26

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. **"In your anger do not sin"**: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

Galatians 6:1

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should **restore that person gently**.

Luke 6:32-36

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Philippians 2:2-8

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

## In Summary

Proverbs 10:12

Hatred stirs up conflict, but **love** covers over all wrongs.

When we feel ourselves getting offended by someone, we need to be quick to recognize it and make the intentional decision to not be offended. When we make the decision to let go of offense, it is important to make the intentional decision to replace it with love.