

Freedom From Offense – 2 “3 Forms of offense”

Review

“Mouse Trap”

Trap-stick

Offense: (Greek) Scandalon

-a stumbling block

-to trap or ensnare

-the trigger of a trap

-to injure or hurt (Eng. Scandal or Scandalize)

[Deadly process of an offense]

Nurse it

Rehearse it

Disperse it

God wants to Reverse it!

Matthew 24:4-13 (KJV) “Signs of end times”

Many shall be offended

Betray and hate one another

False prophets arise

Iniquity shall abound (lots of sin)

Love of many wax cold

Love (Greek): Agape

Charity (God’s kind of love)

Philippians 1:9-11 (KJV)

Love abound vs. wax cold

We be without offense

Filled with fruits of righteousness

Acts 24:16 (KJV) (Paul before Gov. Felix)

Acts 24:16 (KJV)

Exercise = train or discipline

Taking no offense is a spiritual discipline

Paul had to work at it

So will you and I

Offense toward God and Man

[Three forms or kinds of offense]

1. Imaginary Offense (Speculative imaginations)

Reading things into things that are not there (I Sam 18:7-9) King Saul & David

Examples

“I thought you said...”

“He didn’t shake my hand”

“He looked right at me...”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “Cast down”

1 Corinthians 13:5 “Think no evil”

2. Accidental Offense (no intent to hurt or harm)

Examples

“Are you pregnant?” (10lbs.?)

Forget something (Birthday...)

Late for dinner

Learn to “Let it Go” (Sow mercy)

3. Actual Offense (Malice) intent to hurt or harm

Guns vs. gums

Dangerously become vessels of offense

(Backbiting, slander, talebearer, whisperer)

- Learn to process
- How to avoid & overcome
- Involves forgiveness & trusting God

[Offense toward God] Matthew 11:6 “Blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me”

1. Not understanding Christian suffering (hardships)

Matthew 11:6 John was in prison

Persecutions, afflictions, tribulation

1 Peter 4:12-19 (KJV)