

OFFENDED Labeled – Part 3

ON TV: An altar was a place where people who loved God would **sacrifice or lay something meaningful down** before God.

ON TV: Our **identity**. Because our identity is often the labels we wear, based on who we **think we are**, or who **others** thinks we are.

ON TV: Easily **OFFENDED**.

ON TV: **65%** of Americans say people are too easily offended these days.

ON TV: **Things people are offended by...**

- Mascot Names
- Politics
- Religion/The Bible
- Lifestyle/Gender
- Language
- Food

ON TV: **How many of you get offended by...**

- Another **driver** when you're driving?
- An **employee** in a store who has a tone in their voice or is really slow to respond to you?
- Someone that you **text** and they don't answer right away?
- Someone does something **hurtful** to you and they don't acknowledge it or say, "I'm sorry."?
- You do something **nice** for someone or you give them a gift, but there's no real acknowledgment?

ON TV: **Things that offend the church crowd...**

- Bible translations
- Worship Songs/Style
- Church Building/architecture
- Denominations
- Theology
- Other Christians
- Non-Christians

ON TV: Why is that we're so easily offended?

ON TV: **Insecurity**

ON TV: For us to be right, someone else has to be **wrong**. For us to win, someone else has to **lose**.

ON TV: If we're **looking to be offended**, we will find something or someone to be offended by **everywhere** we go.

ON TV: Instead of having a **conversation** that leads to **understanding**, we **choose** to be offended.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "9 To some who were extremely confident of their own righteousness and **looked down** on everyone else, He said this: 10 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed, 'God, **I thank you that I'm not like the other people**, the robbers and the evildoers and the adulterers or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and I give a tenth of all I get.' 13 But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 Jesus said, 'I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home **justified** before God. For everyone **who exalts himself will be humbled**, and he who **humbles himself will be exalted**.'" Luke 18:9-14

ON TV: If we live our lives offended long enough, that offense starts to **settle into our heart**, and it begins to **grow**. And it grows from being offended to **contempt**.

ON TV: What **word** best describes your impression of the Christians you know?

ON TV: **Judgmental**

ON TV/OUTLINE: *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9*

ON TV: What if we’re **right**, but we’re not **loving**?

ON TV/OUTLINE: *“16 For God so **LOVED** the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 I did not come into the world to **JUDGE** the world. I came to **SAVE** it.” John 3:16-17*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *“You must show **MERCY** to others or God won’t show mercy to you when he judges you one day. But the person who shows mercy will stand without fear at the judgement. **MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT**.” James 2:13*

ON TV/OUTLINE: Mercy is love in **ACTION**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *“A man’s wisdom gives him **patience**. It is to his glory to **overlook an offense**.” Proverbs 19:11*

ON TV: To overlook something doesn’t mean to pretend like it never happened. To overlook is a form of **forgiveness**.

ON TV: Overlook means to **pass over** an offense.

ON TV: The higher and greater **our attitude** becomes like Christ; the offense gets smaller and smaller.

ON TV: Why are we **allowing** that person we’re offended by, to hold us down?

ON TV: Why do we rarely do that?

ON TV: Because we’re operating out of **insecurity** and **control** that inflates our ego, instead of living out of the **grace** that God extends to us through Jesus Christ.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *“For by the **grace given me**, I say to everyone of you: Do not think of yourself **more highly** than you ought, but rather, think of yourself with **sober judgment in accordance with the measure of faith** God has given you.” Romans 12:3*

ON TV: We will **not be** so easily offended.

ON TV/OUTLINE: Because of Christ’s grace to us, we’ll give others the **BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *“Always be **humble** and **gentle**; be **patient** with each other, **making allowance** for each other’s faults **because of your love**.” Ephesians 4:2*

ON TV/OUTLINE: We often **judge others** by their **ACTIONS**, but we **judge ourselves** by our **INTENTIONS**.

ON TV: We want to have **thick skin** and a **soft heart**.

ON TV: **Thin skin** and a **hard heart**

ON TV: **Hurting** people **hurt** people.

ON TV/OUTLINE: Because of the grace given to us in Christ, we will not **LABEL** others.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *“36 Be **merciful** just as your father is merciful. 37 **Do not judge** and you will not be judged. **Do not condemn** and you will not be condemned. **Forgive** and you will be forgiven.” Luke 6:36-37*

ON TV/OUTLINE: Because of the grace Christ has given us, we will **FORGIVE** as we’ve been **forgiven**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “Make **allowance** for each other’s faults and **forgive** anyone who **offends** you.” Colossians 3:13

ON TV/OUTLINE: “14 For if you **forgive** men when they **sin against you**, your Heavenly Father **will also forgive you**, 15 but if you do not forgive me their sins, your Father **will not forgive your sins**.” Matthew 6:14-15

ON TV/OUTLINE: “Be **kind** and **compassionate** to one another, **forgiving** each other just as in Christ, God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

ON TV: We are to **forgive** just as we have been forgiven by Christ.

ON TV: **Hurting** people **hurt** people.

ON TV: **Forgiven** people **forgive** people.

ON TV: I wonder how many of you find yourself being easily offended, but you don’t want to be that way?

ON TV: I wonder how many of you because someone has wronged you, hurt you, betrayed you, or let you down that now you’re holding a grudge?

ON TV/OUTLINE: “23 And when God **counted Him as righteous**, it was recorded 24 for **our benefit**...assuring us that God will also **count us as righteous** if we **believe** in Him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead 25 who was delivered up because of **our offenses** and was raised to life to make us **right with God**.” Romans 4:23-25