



Mousetrap Part 3 – Offended at God

August 30, 2026

Offense is not just an emotion — it is a trap. The Greek word "skandalon" means bait stick, and just like a mousetrap, taking the bait costs you far more than you gain. This week, we explored how offense can cut us off from God's promises, disrupt the flow of His Spirit, and divide the body of Christ.

Paul wrote in Acts 24:16 that he always strived to keep a conscience void of offense toward God and toward men. That takes exercise — intentional, daily training. When we misunderstand God's nature or feel forgotten by Him, we become vulnerable to one of the enemy's most effective traps.

The truth is, God is absolutely loving, absolutely good, absolutely faithful, absolutely able, and absolutely willing. No matter what you are walking through, that never changes.

Life Group Discussion — Processing Offense

1. **What do you do to protect your heart from offense?** Paul wrote in Acts 24:16 that he always strived to maintain a conscience free from offense toward both God and men — *what spiritual disciplines or daily habits help you actively exercise and maintain that same kind of clear conscience?*
2. **Which of these two tendencies do you find yourself most susceptible to, and why?** The sermon identifies two primary reasons people get offended at God: misunderstanding His nature because of not understanding Christian suffering and feeling He shows favoritism.
3. **How does correctly identifying which type of suffering you are experiencing change the way you respond to it?** The sermon outlines three distinct types of suffering: what Jesus paid for on the cross, suffering because of faith in Christ, and suffering as a consequence of sinful or unwise choices.
4. **How seriously do you take your personal role in either contributing to or protecting the unity of your church?** The sermon warns that division, envy, and strife in a church body are not merely organizational problems but a defilement of the temple of God as described in 1 Corinthians 3

Key Takeaways

- The Greek word "skandalon" means "bait stick." Offense is not just an emotion -- it is a snare designed to cut us off from the promises of God and the supernatural flow of His Spirit.

- Jesus warned us that offenses will come. The question is not whether we will face them, but how we will respond when we do.
- A mature church is marked by unity and communion. Division, envy, and strife are signs of carnality and immaturity.
- People often become offended at God because they misunderstand His nature or feel He is showing favoritism to others.
- Christian suffering is real and takes different forms. Understanding why we suffer helps us process hardship without turning away from God.
- Honor is the antidote to offense. Walking in a consistent standard of honor for God, for leadership, and for the church family creates an environment where God can move.
- Paul's example in Acts 24:16 challenges us to exercise ourselves -- to train and strive -- toward a conscience free of offense toward both God and people.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together over the following:

- Gratitude for a God who is good, faithful, loving, able, and willing -- regardless of our circumstances
- Courage to take necessary steps toward reconciliation where offense has taken root
- A fresh standard of honor for God, for the church, and for one another
- Expectancy for what God wants to do in your group, your church, and the lives of those you will invite