

# How to be Offended

Week 3 - Mike Curl  
"Becoming a Peacemaker"

**Icebreaker:** What part of elementary school do you wish was part of adult life?

## Texts for Discussion:

- Read **Proverbs 15:1**
  - Why is Solomon called, "the wisest man who ever lived"?
- Read **Matthew 5:3-11**
  - These are the Beattitudes, or "supreme blessedness". **Vs 9** talks about peacemakers. Why do you think they are called "children of God"?
- Read **Romans 14:12-19**
  - Paul is using sacred vs non-sacred foods to illustrate a point in this passage. What is the point?

## Things to Consider:

- The purpose of this week, in **How to be Offended**, is to discover and prepare for what happens you encounter conflict.
  - We get a choice: react like the world (gossip, stir the pot, take sides, etc.) or react like God (forgiveness, de-escalate, grace, **love**)
  - We know what we should do, but often we take the path of sin (escalate and conflagrate conflict) rather than of righteousness (love and grace).
    - Read **Romans 7:14-17** (Paul is addressing God's perfect law and our inability to live up to that standard)
- Have you read/watched anything in the news lately that reminds you of the world's way of handling conflict? What about God's way?
  - What about closer to home: family, friends, workplace, school, etc.?
- Conflict between people is the disease of sin acting out, manifesting to destroy and tear relationships. This should break our hearts because of the precious nature of people in God's eyes.
  - Read **Ephesians 2:4-7**

## Going Deeper:

- Think on a conflict you have encountered or are in the middle of? Are you stirring the pot or are you suing for peace? How can you be more like Jesus in the midst of the turmoil?

**Prayer:** It will take more than "our way" to make peace. Pray for strength and God's presence as you walk this out!