

How to be Offended

Week 1 - Mike Curl

“Cause for Offense”

Icebreaker: What is your favorite type of music? Least favorite?

Texts for Discussion:

- Read **Matthew 5:38-42**
 - Jesus alludes to command that his audience would have been very familiar with.
 - Have you heard of an eye for an eye?
- Read the following:
 - **Deuteronomy 19:21**
 - **Leviticus 24:20**
 - **Exodus 21:24**
 - What do you think was the original intent of this law?
 - Back to **Matthew 5:38-42**, why does Jesus tell us to “turn the other cheek”?
- Read **James 4:1-10**
 - James, the brother of Jesus, writes a fairly pointed letter to his audience (us) regarding how we treat, and how we should treat, one another.
 - How would you react if someone did to you what James says (in **vs 4**) we do to God?
 - What does Jesus say we should do?

Things to Consider:

- You will be offended. It is as certain as the sun rising, and things falling when you drop them. In order to even have a chance of avoiding this, we have to figure out **why** we get offended. According to James (and many, many other authors of the Bible) the root cause is pride.
 - It’s all about **my** feelings, **my** desires, **my** sense of justice, **my** idea of fair, etc. In this world there are a bunch of **My’s** looking out for themselves, with no one really paying attention to the **thems**. Yet everyone who is not a my, is a them and there are a lot more thems than my’s. (confused?)
- If pride is the root cause for us taking offense, then we know where to start looking to solve this problem. We have to set aside our pride.

Going Deeper:

- This will likely be hard in a group, but if you’re willing, share some areas in your life that you are overly prideful about.

- Some ways to identify pride in your life: if someone were to disagree with you about this particular belief, how would you feel about yourself, them, etc.? Anger, a loss of self-value, etc. are indicators that this is a pride point for you.
- We have to double down on our identity in Christ. Without him there is no way we can weather the storm of offense that is coming our way. If you set aside your pride without replacing it with Jesus, you will lose yourself. Trust in him who sacrificed himself to see you free from sin, including pride!

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to intervene in your prayer life, your thought life, and your relational life to help you experience Christ's love and to pour it out towards those you meet.