

sermon discussion

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Live stream at OBCC.online.church; access a video of the service on YouTube.

MAIN POINTS & KEY SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 18:19

An offense is when our core needs defense.

Researchers have defined offense as a feeling that is “triggered by a blow to a person’s honor” because it contradicts a person’s self-concept and identity. Poggi & D’Errico, 2018

- Acts 19:27–28

As Christians we should find God at our center.

- Matthew 22:37–38

The greatest offenses are sins.

Matthew 18:1

- Matthew 18:5
- Matthew 18:7
- Matthew 18:8–9

We should be most offended about our sin.

- Hebrews 10:26–27a, 29
- Matthew 22:39

We should be less offended about others’ sins.

- Romans 12:19
- 1 Peter 3:15

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is something that offended you in the past, but no longer does today. What changed?
2. When you’re offended, what’s your go-to response? Pretend it didn’t happen, downplay the situation, blame the other person, or something else? Why do you think that is?
3. **Read Romans 9:32-33.** Consider that Jesus is both the lawgiver and judge over all people, and he is called a “rock of offense.” In what ways do people today stumble over him or offend him?
4. **Read Mark 6:2-4 & Matthew 13:56-58.** Why do you think the people from Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth took offense at his authoritative teachings? Do you think their personal offense was justified?
5. How does the concept of circles of offense help you to understand the intensity of our reactions to different situations?
6. How does seeing God as the judge and putting Him at the center of our lives impact our response to offenses?
7. **Read Proverbs 10:12 & 17:9.** Spend some time starting the exercise below, and then encourage the group to finish it during the coming week.
 - Create a list of 5-10 things that offend you the most. If you have trouble, try thinking of things from the last few months that offended you, or ask someone who knows you well what they think offends you.
 - Next, evaluate why those things offend you. What does that potentially indicate about your core beliefs, identity, purpose, and values?
 - Lastly, spend time praying and ask yourself this question: If I believed that God is the judge and if I put Him at the center of my life, would I respond to these offenses in the same way? Why or why not?

GOING FURTHER

MEMORIZE: *Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.*

Proverbs 19:11

READ: *Peace Maker* by Ken Sande