

THE GREAT OFFENSE – Romans 5:12-21

We live in a society today which promotes a culture of “no offense.” Recently Disney slapped a “cultural content” warning on vintage animation films, such as: **1941 “Dumbo” – 1970 “The Aristocats” – 1967 “The Jungle Book” – 1955 “Lady and the Tramp.”** The warnings cautioned “sensitive fans” that what they are about to watch contains racial portrayals that might be “triggering.”

Arguably, we are living in a “nanny society” whereby people have to be *constantly* coddled lest they be offended! Fast food chains have to place “caution hot” on the outside of coffee cups containing hot coffee, lest they be sued! An article I recently read entitled “The Psychology of Offense” noted: ***“One of the most common reasons people take offense is insecurity. Insecurities based on one’s self-concept, ideas, and feelings about self.”*** (sagu.edu/thoughthub/thepsycology-of-offense)

The *sociological philosophy* of no offense is socially illogical and *most* importantly unbiblical! Jesus said, **Luke 17 – “It is *impossible* that offense will not come.”** Yet it is the new normal *preached* on the campuses of *nearly* every learning institution in the land! **Abraham Lincoln (16th) warned: “*The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.*”** **Abraham Lincoln.** But if we’ll scratch just beneath the surface of this no offense ideology we’ll find at the heart of it mankind’s *attempt* to create his own utopia, a safe place apart from God! **We have to ask**

the question: *With so many people obsessing over offense today, why is there seemingly no concern regarding offense in relationship to God?*

God addressed this question within today's text. Because the **greatest offense known** to mankind is not racial, economic, cultural, or environmental, but **spiritual!** Sin is the **great offense!** Until we deal with the great offense of sin there can be **no safe place!** The apostle Paul reveals *here* the origin, remedy, and ruler over mankind's great offense! The purpose of this message is to remind us of what sustains our **victory** in Christ!

(v.12-14) Origin of the offense. *Sin entered the world through Adam.*
Question: ***Why not Eve?*** Because Adam is the paternal father of all mankind. I was reading where:

“Genetically speaking, we are all a lot more like our fathers. Paternal genes have been found to be more dominant than the maternal ones. New research has shown genes from your father are more dominant than those inherited from your mother.”

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/youre-more-like-your-father-than-your-mother-say-scientists-10084995.html>

<https://www.inverse.com/article/32991-dad-mom-genes-dominance-inheritance>

Similarly, *spiritually speaking*, the dominant DNA of our father Adam has been handed down. **(Psalm 51:5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.** Thus, all sinned.

Because all have been born in sin, because all bear the DNA of our paternal father Adam! **(Romans 3:10) “There is none righteous, no, not one!”** What is meant by, **(v.13a) “sin is not imputed.”** **Imputed: ellogeo – set to one’s account.** Sin was *imputed* (accounted for).

Note: although there was no accounting, the wages of sin still had a deadly effect upon mankind; **(v.14a) “Nevertheless death reigned...”**

God sent the law through Moses to reveal the true status of our *account balance* before God; we were all spiritually **bankrupted!** *He did so in hope that we would see our true condition and turn to God; this was the sole purpose of the law.*

(v.14b-17) Remedy for the offense – The free gift is not like the offense. Adam was a type of Christ. (v.14b) **(1 Corinthians 15:45) “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. By one man’s offense condemnation came; by one Man’s offering justification has come! Those who were once dead are now alive through faith in Christ! **(ttt) Romans 5:6-9.****

The cross of Christ is our justification before God. The 19th century theologian Albert Barnes defines “justification” this way: ***“What is justification? It is the declared purpose of God to regard and treat those sinners who believe in Jesus Christ as if they had not sinned, on the ground of the merits of the Savior. It is not mere pardon. Pardon is a free forgiveness of past offenses. It has reference to those sins as forgiven and blotted out. Justification has respect to the law, and to God’s future dealings with the sinner. It is an act by which God determines to treat him***

hereafter as righteous--as if he had not sinned. The basis for this is the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ, merit that we can plead as if it were our own. He has taken our place and died in our stead; He has met the descending stroke of justice, which would have fallen on our own heads if He had not interposed.” Albert Barnes.

Jesus is our remedy for justification! He has *defeated* the two greatest *allies* of the **great offense** – The Law: He fulfilled the law, thus becoming our righteousness before God; Secondly - He also defeated death, that we might have eternal life! Paul declared: **(1 Corinthians 15:54b-57) “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lastly, (v.18-21) Grace reigns over the offense – It’s clear that the disobedience of Adam *ruined us, placing us under condemnation*; but the obedience of Christ revived us, *raising us from the dead*! But it doesn’t stop there. “**MOREOVER**” – (v.20) Grace sustains us! We have received (v.17b) the abundance of grace! When the law entered to reveal our true status before God, sin (the offense) abounded. **“But where sin (offense) abounded, grace abounded much more!”**

There are two different Greek words for **abounded** given here; where **1) sin abounded: pleonazo – increased. 2) Grace “abounded much**

more: *hyperperisseuo* (hu-pair-pe-resoo-o) - **super-abounded, exceedingly, overflowing, to enjoy abundantly!** This should inspire us in two ways: 1) Evangelism should not diminish despite the darkness of our day! 2) Personally God's grace *super-abounds* toward me daily! (ttt) **Romans 5:10, 11. Why?** (5:10b) we are "sustained by His life." In order for us to lose our salvation the life of Christ must cease! **Only He who is everlasting can give everlasting life!**

Therefore, because of His grace we are never defeated, forsaken, abandoned by the Father! (v.21) Where death and condemnation once ruled, grace through faith in Christ now reigns!

CONCLUSION: God manifested His love towards us by "offending" the "offended," through the message of the gospel that we might overcome the greatest offense! **(Romans 1:16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.** Christ is mankind's only true safe place; for only through faith in Him can we find rest for our souls!