

March Madness
How to Overcome the Mad, Mad World
Discover Church
April 3, 2022

Stop the Madness

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” James 1:19-20

Lower our expectations of people and raise our level of gratitude

Dealing with Mad People

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold...Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen...Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:26-27, 29, 31-32

Being offended is inevitable. Living offended is a choice.

Wait! I'm Mad Too

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector... I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Luke 18:9-14

Jesus wasn't just concerned about right and wrong; He was also concerned about pride and humility.

The Mad Taste of Bitterness

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” Hebrews 12:14-15

An invisible root always yields a visible fruit

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“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:13-14

The Four P’s of an Unoffendable Life

1. The Perspective to Release Forgiveness

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” Matthew 18:21-22

“For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.” Romans 13:4-5

2. The Pride that Kills an Abundant Life

“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.” Matthew 23:27

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:8-9

3. The Peace Found in the Mad World

“A heart at peace gives life to the body” Proverbs 14:20

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.” James 3:17

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **peace**. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

4. The Power that Unleashes an Unoffendable Life

Three Verses and Three Questions

*“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1
Thessalonians 5:18*

1. Can I **thank** God for it?

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17*

2. Can I do it in **Jesus Name**?

*“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians
10:31*

3. Can I do it for **God's Glory**?

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The Four P’s of an Unoffendable Life

1. The _____ to Release Forgiveness
2. The _____ that Kills an Abundant Life
3. The _____ Found in the Mad World
4. The _____ that Unleashes an Unoffendable Life

Three Verses and Three Questions

1. Can I _____ God for it? - 1 Thessalonians 5:18
2. Can I do it in _____? – Colossians 3:17
3. Can I do it for _____? – 1 Corinthians 10:31

Scripture: *Matthew 18:21-22; Romans 13:4-5; Proverbs 16:18; Matthew 23:27; 1 John 1:8-9; Proverbs 14:20; James 3:17; John 16:33*