

The Heart of The Matter

The Offended Heart

Proverbs 4:23 NIV

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

The Hebrew word for heart is **Kardia**.

It refers to our:

1. Thoughts
2. Emotions
3. Actions
4. Motives

- The greatest thoughts are those of unity.
- The greatest emotions are those of integrity.
- The greatest actions are those of humility.
- The greatest motives are those of purity.

Samuel 16:7 ESV

“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

HAVING AN OFFENDED HEART

Becoming offended will be expressed by our thoughts, emotions, actions, and our motives.

Those who harbor offense in their heart have willfully handed over the control of their thoughts, emotions, actions, and their motives to the offender.

Proverbs 18:19 NLT

“An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.”

Questions to consider: _____

- How do I know if I'm offended?
- Do I consistently have negative thoughts towards someone?
- Am I bitterly waiting for an apology that has not been offered?

2. How can I prevent becoming offended?

Here's a few principles that I have learned:

- When I'm fully submitted, I'm not easily offended.

James 4:7 ESV

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- When I don't have to win the argument, I'm not easily offended.
- When I don't need to be recognized, I'm not easily offended.
- Cognize – to perceive, become conscious of; to know

THE LOCAL CHURCH CAN BE THE MOST OFFENSIVE PLACE ON EARTH

- Religious spirits
- Judgmental people

- Abusive leadership
- Because we are there

THE LOCAL CHURCH CAN BE THE MOST OFFENDABLE PLACE ON EARTH

- Lack of submission
- Lack of love for the lost
- Resistance to change

Psalm 26:2 (NIV)

“Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind.

- story about the dream of being suspended in the air.

Proverbs 27:19

As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart.

3. How can I overcome my offense?

1. Unchain yourself by forgiving the offender. Even if an apology is never given to you.
2. Ask yourself: what are the areas of my life that aren’t submitted to the Lord?