

PLAYING DEFENSE AGAINST OFFENSE

By Pastor Lee Allen Jenkins
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How you handle an offense
can literally **make or break** a relationship.

*It is harder to win back the friendship of an **offended brother** than to capture a fortified city. His anger shuts you out like iron bars. **Proverbs 18:19 (TLB)***

Defense means...protection, security, cover, shield.

Offense means...a wrongdoing, transgression, violation, infraction.

Our lives will only go as far
as our ability to **overcome** offenses.

How To Play Defense Against Offense:

1. Stop being so easily offended.

*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 (NIV)***

*If you cannot control your anger, you are as helpless as a city without walls, open to attack. **Proverbs 25:28 (GNT)***

2. Consider letting the offense go.

*A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to **overlook an offense**. **Proverbs 19:11 (NIV)***

3. Talk to the person who offended you, not to someone else.

*If another believer sins against you, **go privately and point out the offense**. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.*

*But if you are unsuccessful, **take one or two others with you and go back again**, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.*

*If the person still refuses to listen, **take your case to the church**. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector. **Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT)***

4. Refuse to take up another person's offense.

*The person who tells one side of a story **seems right**, until someone else comes and asks questions. **Proverbs 18:17 (NCV)***

5. Choose to forgive.

*Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **just as God through Christ has forgiven you.** **Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)***

**The same forgiveness we receive from God,
is the same forgiveness we should extend to others.**

