

## September 30

**Proverbs 19:11 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense. **Proverbs 17:9 (NIV)** <sup>9</sup> Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. **Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)** <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Park Point University has developed their "Pronouns and Inclusive Language Guide." According to the schools' Office of Equity and Inclusion, students have been notified that "any individual who has been informed of another person's gender identity, pronouns, or chosen name is expected to respect that individual" and that "misgendering, continued misuse of an individual's pronouns, or using an individual's deadname after being informed of a chosen name could result in a violation of the Policy on Discrimination and Harassment for gender-based discrimination." The university further stated, "While the University recognizes the aspect of intent versus impact, we must recognize that regardless of the intent, if an individual is impacted in a harmful way, action could be taken if a complaint is filed."

We are living in a time where everything seems to offend someone. Every day we can read about people being offended by statues, pronouns, clothes, flags, songs, shows, and more. There is a very interesting statement when speaking about offenses. People will say, "I took offense at that." The verb "take" is transitive verb that denotes an action. The Lord told me, "When someone offers you an offense, don't take it." Throughout His life, religious leaders did their best to offend Jesus and His disciples. Sometimes the disciples accepted the offense; Jesus never did. He refused because taking offense results in anger, bitterness, and revenge. Instead, Jesus graciously refused the offense and returned love, kindness, understanding, and grace. Now, if we took offense at the university and its new policy, then we need to cover that offense with the love of Christ. Words may hurt us, but our shield of faith and our love for others through Jesus protect us from offense. If someone offers us an offense, let us refuse it.