



OFFENDED

DR. KENNETH JONES, SR.
PRACTICAL LIVING MINISTRY



PRACTICAL LIVING MINISTRY

Practical Living Ministry exists to assist individuals, groups, and organizations to operate to their full God-given ability by sharing life changing principles for spiritual growth and development.

Service Times: Sunday @ 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study: 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays

Location: 2050 Old Bridge Road, Woodbridge, VA

Ministries: Counseling, Prison Reentry, Community Alliance, Mentoring for the Men

Our website at www.practicallivingministry.org

If you would like to contact Dr. Jones for a speaking engagement at your church or event concerning biblical leadership, mentoring, and Christian culture. Please contact Pastor Kenneth Jones at

kenjones@practicallivingministry.org

WE LIVE IN A NATION WHERE PEOPLE ARE EASILY OFFENDED

- *The world is so unfair. And it's everyone's fault!"*
- *I truly believe that we are the most whiney, sensitive, thin-skinned, easily offended society in the history of the world.*
- Pew Research Center finds a majority of Americans think too many people are easily offended by mere words.
- *Why are some people offended by truth, even if it is spoken or acted out in love?"*
- When we look at the life of Jesus Christ, we realize there are plenty of people who are offended by truth even when it is lovingly presented



“FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS” WBGR RADIO: 1:00 P.M. TODAY

- Today’s Discussion will be on “Being Offended”
 - What Does it Mean to be Offended?
 - Why Are So Many People Easily Offended These Days?
 - What is the Danger of Being in an “Offended” State of Mind?
 - How Do We Deal With Someone Who Offends Us?
 - What it Means to “Speak the Truth in Love” to Others?



**Tune in and tell a friend, unless you are
concerned that you will be too “Offended” to
Listen?**

ARE YOU EASILY OFFENDED?

“Also do not take to heart everything people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you” (Ecclesiastes 7:21).

The enemy uses our offenses and our "offendedness" to divide and conquer marriages, relationships, churches, communities -- even entire nations!



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE OFFENDED?

- **Being Offended is about:**
 - Having hurt feelings, that you are sad, angry, sorrowful, grieved, annoyed, disappointed, or upset over an experience, something that was said, observed, or heard
 - Where you may emotionally *disagree* with what has been done to or with you, and that you take the act personally (whether it was personal or not)
 - Feeling you have been unjustly treated, or, if not unjustly, at least treated in a way unacceptable or undesirable to you and you want compensation or satisfaction in return
 - Assuming certain motives on the part of the offender, and that subsequent actions or words should have or could have been prevented or considered in another way
 - Is the very opposite of forgiveness. Forgiveness means that you pardon another his offenses towards you, whereas being offended means you hold on to a grudge, even where there is no offense

BIBLICAL TERM

- to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall, metaph. to offend
- to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey
- to be offended in one, i.e. to see in another what I disapprove of and what hinders me from acknowledging his authority
- to cause to fall away; to entice to sin
- to cause one displeasure at a thing



THE OFFENSE OF CAIN

Genesis 4:4-7: Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. ⁶ “Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected?” ⁷ **You will be accepted if you do what is right.** But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. **But you must subdue it and be its master.”**

- Your offense can be your master.
- Through the media and corrupt social institutions, many have fallen into slavery to the spirit of offense
- The Sin of Cain began with an offence. An offence always starts as a thought, and if not cast down, will lead to destruction



OFFENSE IS AN “ATTITUDE” SIN

- Today's media is training people to not trust each other and to attack each other
- The people who claim to stand for tolerance are the most intolerant people there are
- People take Offense for the following reasons:
 - **What others said to us** – When we hear words that we either don't agree with or doesn't agree with us. Sometimes the abrasive and abusive words of other offends us
 - **What others did not say to us** - You could be offended because you don't feel appreciated. No one ever says thank you to you or compliments your effort.
 - **What others did to us (negative actions and reactions)** – Selfish Actions and humiliating experiences can cause the seed of offence to germinate in our hearts.
 - **What people didn't do for us (favor or assistance we did not receive)** – We can become offended if people don't respond as we want them to

2 Corinthians 4:4 - Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.



Spirit of Outrage

Fake News

Violence



"OPTICS"

"Agitated State"

Racism

Anti-Christian

Being Offended Has Now
Become an Addiction



INTEREST GROUPS

Religion and Politics



EASILY OFFENDED



**IN SPEAKING TO OFFENSE, WE MUST
LOOK AT PEOPLE (CULTURES),
EVENTS/ISSUES, BELIEFS, AND
ATTITUDES**

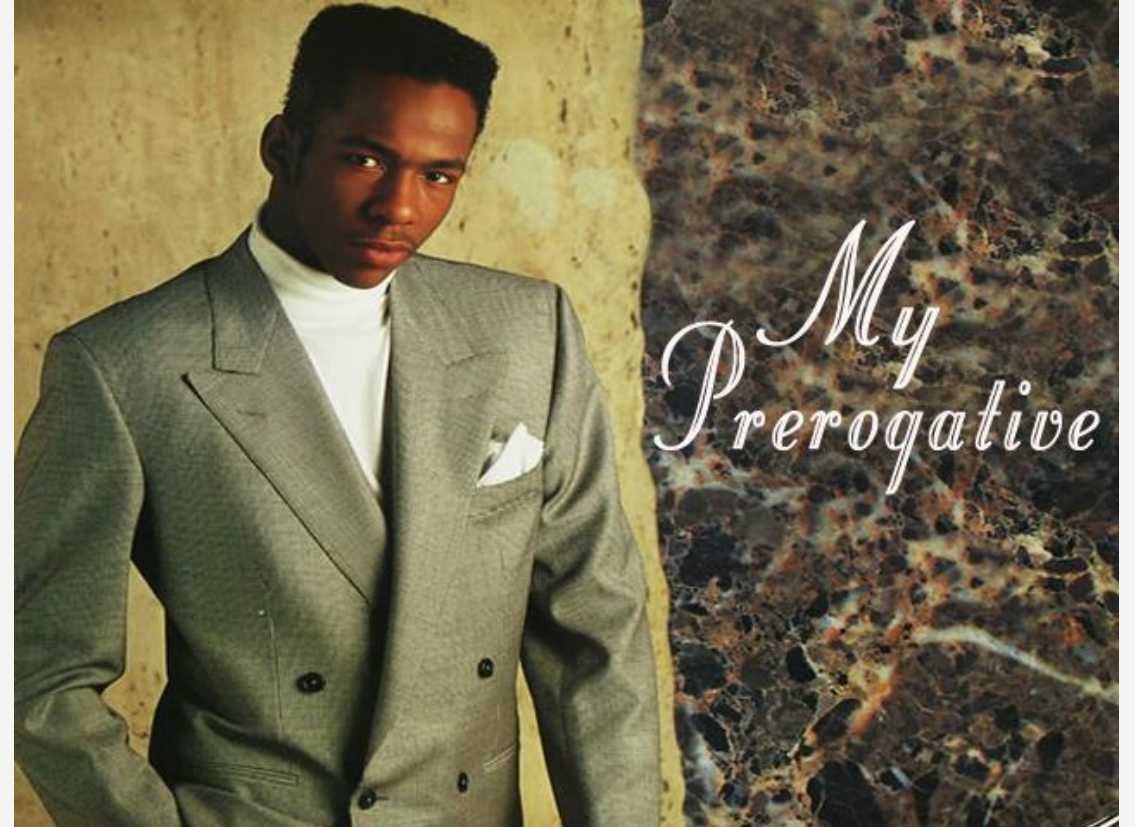
WHERE DOES BEING OFFENDED LEAD?

- Being offended can be considered “legitimate” as one may see something as socially, morally, spiritually wrong
- However, being offended leads to *illegitimate* and destructive attitudes and emotional states of self-pity, resentment, bitterness, anger, hatred, unforgiveness, jealousy, and vengeance.
- From there, one can go on to theft, deceit, revenge, violence, and murder, which are often and inevitably the end result of these passions if left unchecked, as was the case with Cain. Let’s face it – being offended, negatively, often leads to no good
- You have heard one say of another, “So-and-so is so easily offended” (or “so sensitive”). The Bible at times speaks of people who are easily offended, but who are not in the least hesitant to offend.
- We live in a day of proud, stubborn, selfish, self-centered, and self-righteous people who claim “tolerance” and open discussion, while demonstrating strict “intolerance” of other views, not giving way to any discussion of things they don’t agree with

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH BEING OFFENDED

Everybody's talkin' all this stuff about me
(Now now)
Why don't they just let me live (Oh oh oh)
I don't need permission
Make my own decisions (Oh)
That's my prerogative

I can do what I wanna do (It's my
prerogative)
Truly live my life (It's my prerogative)
I'm doin' it just for you (It's my
prerogative)



Read more: [Bobby Brown - My Prerogative Lyrics | MetroLyrics](#)

WHAT ABOUT THE OFFENDER?

Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right



Is the one offending wrong simply because someone was offended by what he said or did?



James 3:8: but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.



SOMETIMES..
Offense is
unavoidable



GIVING NO OFFENSE

2 Corinthians 6:3: We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

- There are times when we should be compassionate, considerate & careful in respect to others' beliefs, cultures, doctrines, & beliefs and not use our liberty in Christ to become a stumbling block unto others.

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. ([1 Corinthians 8:6-9, NKJV](#))

THE TRUTH GIVES OFFENSE TO THOSE WHO LOVE DARKNESS

John 3:20 - They hate the light because they want to sin in the darkness. They stay away from the light for fear their sins will be exposed and they will be punished.

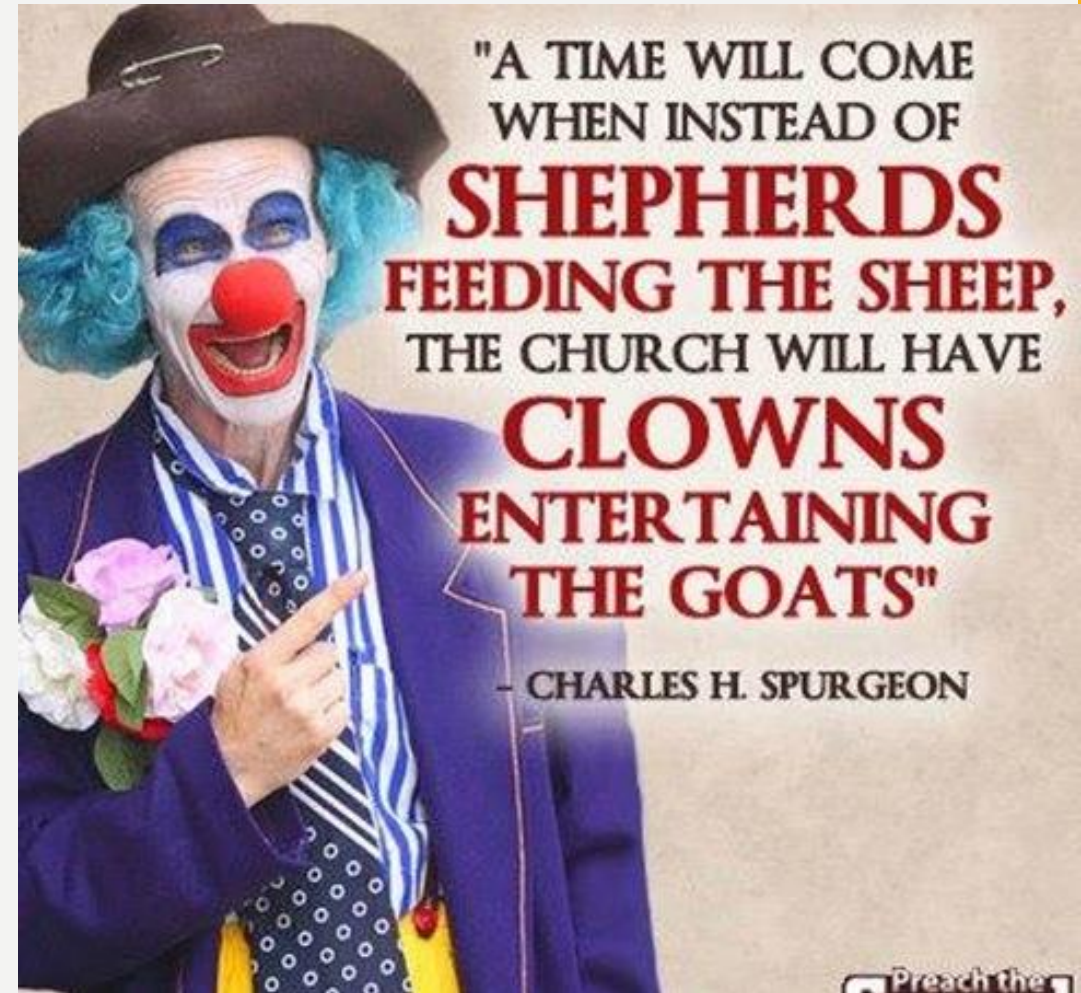
- There are times, doing what is right or in obedience will offend those who don't agree, don't want to hear the truth, or be exposed by the light
- Because of an offended world, many Christians and even churches are abandoning their faith as not to “offend” a people who rebelliously choose not to live according to God's Word
 - **John 16:1,2:** “I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith. ² For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God.



It's the new hate speech.

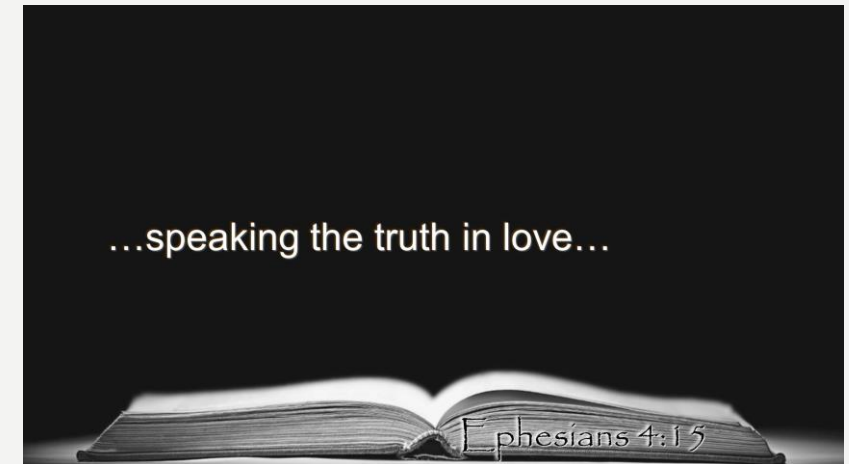
JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

- Matthew 15:12 - Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?"
- When Jesus spoke with the Pharisees, He was more concerned with the truth than their feelings. Jesus spoke the truth, which often aggravated the Pharisees because it conflicted with their beliefs
- Galatians 4:16 [Paul said to the brethren in Galatia:] Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?
 - The Galatians needed the **truth** more than they needed to feel good about where they were at.



SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

- **Ephesians 4:15** - But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
 - *Ephesians 4:15: Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.*
- Satan and this world's system which does the opposite: "Telling a lie out of Hatred"
- **Romans 14:1**: As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.
 - Paul says we need to discern between those who are weak in faith and those who are rebellious and contentious, always disputing

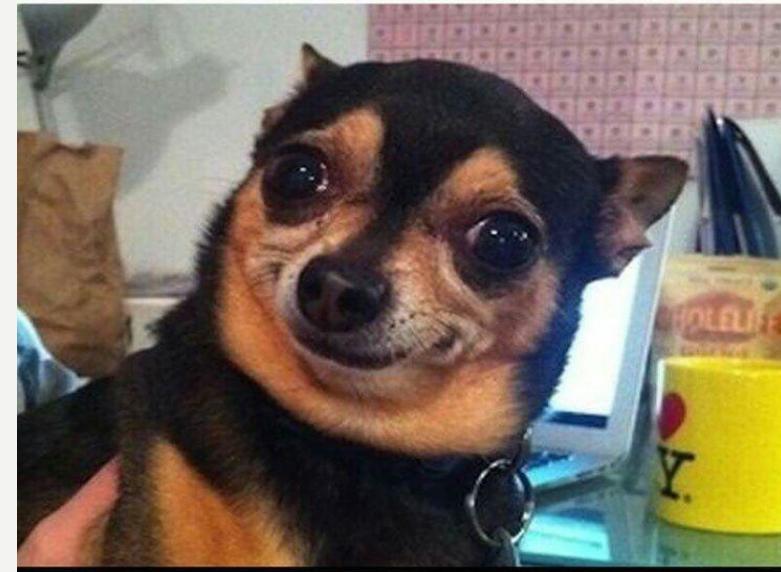


AVOIDING BEING OFFENDED

- *What should we do when we are offended?*
- *When should address a thing by words or actions, or when should we walk away?*
- Proverbs 26:4 advises that there is a time to walk away and avoid a wrong response that would only disgrace yourself: *“Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.”*
- However, Proverbs 26:5 shows there is a time to stand your ground with an appropriate answer: *“Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.”*



When there's a deep rage burning inside of you but you gotta act nice coz u at work



WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE IS OFFENDED BY WHAT YOU SAY OR DO?

- People are offended Nowadays by others
 - Beliefs
 - Affiliations/Associations
 - Lifestyles
 - Culture/Race
 - Political Ideologies
 - How they view life
- Mary Jones says, “People are Offended Just to Be Offended?”
- Story of the bird, cow, and fox



IF SOMEONE OFFENDS YOU

- *Matthew 18:15-17: 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.....*
- Since we are to imitate God (Eph. 5:1), we are to extend reconciliation to a brother who sins against us.
- The key is how we should conduct ourselves as Christians, being open to instruction, correction, and not being easily moved by the actions or words of others.



KEEP GODLY COMPOSURE

- *Avoid the temptation to retaliate.* When something offends, you should maintain proper composure and provide a godly response
 - Matthew 5:44: But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!
 - You may not be able to stop someone else's careless words, but you can change how you deal with them. There are graceful and appropriate ways to deal with insults and criticism.
- *Consider the source.* Is it constructive criticism/correction from someone who loves you, or is it an attack from someone seeking to hurt you?
 - Proverbs 15:32: Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.
- *Draw boundaries.* No one deserves to be put down or belittled constantly. It takes a measure of assertiveness and wisdom to know when and where to set proper personal boundaries for interaction
- *Look for personal insight.* Sometimes truth provides correction and admonishment while harsh words are intended only to hurt. While other people's words might be hurtful, it is possible that something we said or did triggered the response or there is a lesson to learn.

RESPOND VS REACT

- **R**ecognize the Root – Take time to discern motive and spirit behind offense
- **E**xhort, Educate, Edify – dependent upon what is needed
- **S**tep back and give yourself time to consider your ways
- **P**ray as required – Remember God has your back if you are right
- **O**bey the Word in terms of Christian character, response, and behavior
- **N**ever give in to negative thoughts, careless imaginations, and evil associations
- **D**evelop your character & spiritual fruit in such a way that you are spirit-led more than “flesh ruled”

FINAL THOUGHTS

- **Don't Be Offended By Anything You Can't Change or not Willing to Change**
 - We often mistake our indignation for action, thinking that our being offended makes us more empathetic and caring – Well talk is cheap
 - Just having information without Transformation is useless
- **Stop Looking For Things To Be Offended By**
 - If it's been said once, it's been said a thousand times: we find what we look for
 - The easiest thing to find is fault
- **Who are you trusting in?**
 - To sum up, when we take offense, it is because someone has hurt us or frightened us
 - God is on your side. He is your Defender. He knows your heart
 - How much better to allow our dealings with difficult people to bring out the fruit of the Spirit in us (Galatians 5:22-23)