

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Study Series: Forgiven to Become Forgivers
Lesson 10 - Living Unoffended (Unoffendable)**

**Wednesday, July 6, 2022
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

Breakdown of “Forgiven to Become Forgivers” Bible Study Series		
Date	Topic	Key Texts
5/4/2022	Lesson 1 - Understanding God’s Forgiveness	Romans 4:7, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
5/11/2022	Lesson 2 - How to Receive God’s Forgiveness	1 John 1:8-10, Luke 15:11-32
5/18/2022	Lesson 3 - Going from Forgiven to Forgivers	Ephesians 4:31-32, Matthew 18:21-35
5/25/2022	Lesson 4 - Learning to Become a Forgiving Person	Luke 6:27-36, Matthew 18:15-17
6/1/2022	Lesson 5 - Benefits of Living a Forgiving Life	Romans 12:18-21, 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
6/8/2022	Lesson 6 - Forgiveness and Healing	James 5:16, Psalm 103:2-5
6/15/2022	Lesson 7 - Loving Those Who Hate You	Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-31
6/22/2022	Lesson 8 - Lessons from Story of David and Saul	1 Samuel 19, 1 Samuel 24
6/29/2022	Lesson 9 - Forgiveness and Reconciliation	Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 12:18
7/6/2022	Lesson 10 - Living Un-offended	Matthew 11:6, 1 Corinthians 13:5

In the last nine weeks we’ve learnt about God’s forgiveness, how that translates to forgiving others, the benefits of forgiveness, reconciliation and how this applies even in difficult situations like loving those who hates us. Today we’re going to round up with what should be the ultimate goal, becoming unoffendable.

What would it be like to not live your life offended by people anymore? Do you think it will improve your quality of life, health, and relationship with God? Imagine you are known to your family and friends as someone not easily offended? Do you think that will bring more glory to God?

In a nutshell, one of the key marks of walking in love is to be a person that is not easily angered or offended. This kind of life is the one that brings glory to God.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”*

1 Peter 4:8 *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” NIV*

God wants us to be so full of love that we are not easily offended and even if we are, to be able to get rid of it quickly. This victory over offense will lead to a better quality of life, better sleep at night, better relationships with people, freedom from the devil’s manipulation and an unbroken fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:26-7 *“And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.” NLT*

Ephesians 4:26-7 *“But don’t let the passion of your emotions lead you to sin! Don’t let anger control you or be fuel for revenge, not for even a day. Don’t give the slanderous accuser, the Devil, an opportunity to manipulate you!” TPT*

Hence one of the marks of maturity is to not be easily offended. How you handle offenses determines where you are spiritually and reveals the condition of your heart. The more mature you are in Christ and have a heart like His, the more likely you are to follow the leading of the Spirit of God, and the less offended you will be.

What is an Offense?

Oxford dictionaries defines an offense as “annoyance or resentment brought about by a perceived insult to or disregard for oneself or one’s standards or principles.” Jesus said it is inevitable that offenses are going to happen, but it’s how we handle them that is important. **Luke 17:1a** *“then he said to his disciples, “It is impossible that no offense should come,”*

Causes of Offense

1. Unrealistic expectation: when you place too much expectation on people, you set yourself up for offence. This is not an invitation to lack of trust in people, it simply means you are realistic and understand that nobody gets it right all the time. For example, if a leader forgot to mention your name while acknowledging people, I should understand they are human.
2. Being too self-focused - prideful and selfish: A self-focused person wants things their way and unwilling to admit that they are wrong. Pride causes us to view ourselves as victims.
3. Desire to control others: When you are obsessed about controlling things in our lives, you may find yourself needing to control others' responses to you.
4. Insecurity: Insecurity is a feeling of inadequacy (not being good enough) and uncertainty. Insecure people are easily offended. They come with a prenotion that others will not treat them right or are trying to take advantage of them.
5. Becoming offended is some people's defense mechanism: it is a way of avoiding being confronted or never admitting wrongdoing in our relationships. It keeps them from seeing personal character flaws because the blame is deferred to others.
6. Pain from the past: sometimes people's sensitivity comes from pain from their past. The offensive comments or actions points to a past pain that has not been worked through yet. The response is a way of fighting a battle they failed to fight in the past.
7. Listening to gossip and gossipers easily lead to offenses. **Proverbs 16:28** "A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends. Also read Proverbs 6:16-19

We could go on and on and list reasons why people get offended, but at the end of the day the truth to remember is this: being easily offended is a proof that we have not crucified the flesh (Galatians 5:24), we are not walking by the Spirit and hence living to gratify the desires of the flesh. It means we are not following the words of Jesus; deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him. (Matthew 16:24)

Galatians 5:16 "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

How to Become Unoffendable (Less Offended)

1. Be rooted and grounded in love – the more we are aware of the love of the Father to us, the less we are moved by other people's perceived disregard or putdown. Ephesians 3:17-19
2. Walk by the Spirit: the more discipline we are about walking in the Spirit, the more we are less control about our natural impulses. Galatians 5:16
3. Make allowance for other's fault: **Colossians 3:13** "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."
4. Always assume the best of people's intention until proven otherwise: **1 Corinthians 13:6-7** "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."
5. Learn to shoot down offenses in your thoughts before they take root. Learn to take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)
Hebrews 12:15 "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."
- Ephesians 6:16** "In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
6. Have someone in your life who is matured and helps you process your anger and sensitivity in a godly and biblical way. Beware of people who always help you to fuel your anger or bitterness.
7. When all else fails, apply the principles in Mathew 18:15-17 (Lesson 9). This is reserved for the rare times or situations when after you have tried everything you are still hurting.