

Stretch Four: Defending from Offenses

Text: Proverbs 18:19; Psalm 133:1

Introduction:

offense : **a** : the act of displeasing or affronting **b** : the state of being insulted or morally outraged (<http://www.m-w.com>).

bitter : marked by intensity or severity: **a** : accompanied by severe pain or suffering **b** : being relentlessly determined **c** : exhibiting intense animosity **d** (1) : harshly reproachful (2) : marked by cynicism and rancor **e** : intensely unpleasant especially in coldness or rawness (<http://www.m-w.com>).

Life, like a game, goes two ways with an offense and defense—depending on how they are set up can help or hurt. Everyone at some time or another has been hurt or offended by someone else. This very real test helps to determine whether we were prepared for the battle. If not, an offense will slip past weak defenses and one will now become offended. Deeper than this is the response to the emotional hurt that follows. Hurt not handled correctly will eventually draw a person (and often others) to be ensnared by bitterness. (See Hebrews 12:15.)

I. Understanding Reasons You May Get Offended

Through words or actions others may cause you to have feelings of being...

- A. _____/unimportant – Prodigal Son’s brother (Luke 15:24-32)
- B. _____ (Used and abused) – Tamar (2 Samuel 13:8-20)
- C. _____ (not getting one’s way) – Jonah (Jonah 1:2-3, 4:1-2)
- D. _____ – Joseph’s brothers (Genesis 37:3-4)
- E. _____ (failure) – Peter (Matthew 26:75)
- F. _____ (received less than what is deserved) – Contract Servants (Matthew 20:11-16)
- D. _____ (unemployed by others to use your talents) – Jeremiah 18; Romans 9:20-21
- E. _____ (tricked or betrayed) – Esau (Genesis 25:29ff; 27:6-42); David (Psalm 41:9)

II. Preparing Your Defense for an Offense

- A. _____ God's Word – Psalm 119:165
- B. Know offenses _____ come. Luke 17:1
- C. Consider Christ's _____. Isaiah 53:3; John 15:20; 13:5
- D. Examine your heart for _____. Hebrews 12:15
- E. Possess a proper view of _____ – Genesis. 2:7; Psalm 95:16; Romans 12:3
- F. Thank God for _____ – 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:4, 6-7
- G. Keep offenses on a _____ list. Ephesians 4:26

III. Returning to a Victorious Life after an Offense

- A. _____ Spirit-filled. Ephesians 5:18
- B. _____ God's forgiveness of you – Ephesians 4:32
- C. _____ wrongs you have committed. Psalm 139:24
- D. _____ with the offender – Matthew 18:15
- E. _____ the offender – Matthew 18:21-22
- F. _____ the offense has been forgiven – Psalm 103:12
- G. _____ to humble service for the Lord – Matthew 5:23-24