

Agreeable Part Four - Offendable

We are often much more offendable than we are agreeable.

Luke 17:1 (NKJV)

Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!

2 Timothy 2:25-26 (CEV)

Be humble when you correct people who oppose you. Maybe God will lead them to turn to him and learn the truth. 26 They have been trapped by the devil, and he makes them obey him, but God may help them escape.

Satan has weaponized offense.

Psalms 55:12-14 (GWT)

If an enemy had insulted me, then I could bear it. If someone who hated me had attacked me, then I could hide from him. 13 But it is you, my equal, my best friend, one I knew so well! 14 We used to talk to each other in complete confidence and walk into God's house with the festival crowds.

Matthew 24:10-12 (NKJV)

And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (CEV)

Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack. 9 But you must resist the devil and stay strong in your faith.

We must come into agreement over who the real enemy is.

Ephesians 6:12 (CEV)

We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world.

How to Battle Offense

1. Be a peacemaker.

Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Romans 12:18 (NIV)

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

2. Take authority over the spirit of offense.

Matthew 18:18 (NLT)

"I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

3. Eliminate any margin for offense.

Ephesians 4:27 (NAB)

...do not leave room for the devil.

4. Discern what is flesh and what is spirit.

Romans 8:5-8 (NIV)

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

5. Determine to make righteousness your identity.

Philippians 3:9 (GNT)

I now have the righteousness that is given through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God and is based on faith.

It takes great faith to escape the trap of offense and live agreeably.

Luke 17:3-5 (NET)

Watch yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. 4 Even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times returns to you saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." 5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"