

#Offended

PART 1: THE CULTURE OF OFFENCE

Sermon Notes

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Intro:

In today's culture, it seems, people are offended more easily - especially on the internet.

#'s are conversation starters. We want to have a conversation about being offended.

Definition: to be irritated, annoyed, or angry; to have resentful displeasure in something.

Offence is an event. Offended is a decision.

"Being hurt is easier than being right. To prove you're offended you just have to rustle up moral indignation and tell the world about it. To prove you're right you actually have to make arguments and use logic and marshal evidence. Why debate theology or politics or economics if you can win your audience by making the other guys look like meanies?"
~Kevin DeYoung

"It's difficult for a non-Christian to be a hypocrite because they tend to live out what they believe. Chances are they are better at living out their values than you or I are. Jesus never blamed pagans for acting like pagans. But he did speak out against religious people for acting hypocritically." ~Carey Nieuwhof

1. Every broken relationship is an accumulation of small offences

Matthew 5:23-24

Ephesians 4:26

"The enemy's agenda is destruction, his strategy is division and his tactic is offence" ~Steven Furtick

Proverbs 19:11

2. The Gospel itself is offensive, so Christians don't have to be

1 Corinthians 1:22-25, Galatians 5:11

The gospel is a "scandal"

John 15:18

2 Corinthians 6:3

How is the gospel offensive?

- i. It doesn't conform to human desires
- ii. It confronts rather than congratulates

What should we do?

- i. Don't get sucked into unhelpful arguments (2 Timothy 2:23)
- ii. Deal with offence quickly (Ephesians 4:26)
- iii. Keep the cross at the centre of your faith
- iv. Let the Bible offend you

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Have you noticed that people get offended easier today? Why do you think this is? How do most people respond to offence? How did you respond last time you were offended? Does Jesus show us a better way?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 22-25 and Galatians 5:11. What makes the gospel as “stumbling block”? How is it offensive? How can we allow the gospel to offend people without being offensive as Christians?
2. Read Matthew 5:21-26. What does this passage say about offences?
 - Being offended can often lead to anger. v. 22 tells us that anger leads to judgment, just as murder does. Why?
 - Why do you think we should be reconciled to someone we’ve offended before we worship (v. 23-24)?
3. Read 2 Timothy 2:22-26. There is some good wisdom here in how to disagree with someone without being offensive. What can we learn from this for our own conversations? It’s important to note v 26 which tells us that people who believe lie are ensnared by the Devil. It can help us to realize that people aren’t out to get us; they’re victims of the enemy. How can we help them escape?

Application:

1. Reflect on your most recent interactions with those who disagreed with you. Did your interactions reflect Paul’s instructions to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:22-26? If not, how will you react differently next time?

Prayer:

1. Pray wisdom and gentleness in your interactions this week.

2. Other Requests

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