

We are called to Shine the Light of Jesus into our world. One of the ways we shine is with our words and conversations as we “Speak Light” to those around us. But let’s be honest, sometimes our words block the light of Jesus and if we are not careful, we will find ourselves “Throwing Shade” on others. Our words or actions can be like an umbrella that blocks the light of Jesus, in us, from shining on others.

Last week we talked about the easiest way to throw shade is to speak malediction over others. But there is another light blocker that throws shade in all directions and that is Offenses.

### Anyone Ever Been Offended?

We have all offended others and we have all been offended ourselves. The problem with that is:

**Proverbs 18:19 An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city.**

**Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.**

- Offended people often view the world through the tinted glasses of the offense.
- Offended people often find themselves trapped in bitterness.
- Offended people make bad life decisions, break off long lasting relationships, forsake family, and forsake church family all because they were offended.
- God’s plan and purpose for their life is seriously hindered because they have allowed themselves to be offended or they have taken up the offense of another.

Therefore, we need to know how to respond when we have been offended and what we should do when we have offended others.

### What Do You Do When You’ve Been Offended?

1. **Forgive the offender.** – This is not an option. It is a command from Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.** Ouch! This is one of the uncomfortable verses in the scriptures, but if obeyed, becomes one of the most soothing scriptures.

**Colossians 3:12-13 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

You must forgive those who offend you, **whether they repent or not**, say they are sorry or not.

If you are waiting for the offender to say that they are sorry before you forgive them... most of the time may never happen. This forgiveness process is more for YOU.

2. **Point Out the Offense to the Offender.**

**Matthew 18:15 NLT “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.**

Privately – just you and the offender. A face-to-face talk, in an attitude of grace and love, will resolve most problems.

*Why should I go talk to them? Isn’t just forgiving them in my heart good enough?*

Restoration is always the goal. ...**If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.**

- You may forgive them, but the offense is still causing you problems until you deal with it.

**Leviticus 19:17 (NLT) “Do not nurse hatred in your heart for any of your relatives. Confront people directly so you will not be held guilty for their sin.**

- When you are wounded by someone and you can’t work it out with them, the only person we have a right to go to with that hurt is God. He is the only one that can do anything about it.
- If the hurt is something you can’t seem to work through, then you should take your problem to a counselor not “your favorite person to talk to.”

But what if you confront the offender and they still don’t see that they have done anything wrong and the two of you can’t work things out privately.

**Step Two: Matthew 18:16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.**

**Step Three: Matthew 18:17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.**

This is the only time you make the offense public, not to the world, but only to the church.

### 3. Apply Luke 6:27-28.

**Luke 6:27-28 “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.**

Love them. Do good to them. Bless them. Pray for them.

## What Do You Do When You Have Offended Someone Else?

### 1. Stop Throwing Shade and Ask for Forgiveness.

**Matthew 5:23-24 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.**

If you or someone else is speaking darkness rather than light, a relational chasm is created between you and the other person. Jesus says, **“Go to them and make it right.”**

- Jesus says, “Because of your gossip, complaining, criticizing, not being able to control your tongue, if it’s created conflict with somebody, go and make it right.”
- Jesus says, “If you have spoken a curse rather than a blessing on yourself or others... Go and make it right.”

Basically, this verse teaches us that our heart can’t be right with God if our heart isn’t right with others. We can’t worship in spirit and in truth when we have caused pain to our brothers or sisters.

So, if you are sitting in a worship service and suddenly, the Holy Spirit brings to mind someone that you have offended and need to reconcile with... Jesus is saying, “Go and Make It Right!” Then come back and worship freely.

Agree with Paul in **Acts 24:16 So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.**

### 2. Instead of Throwing Shade, Look for Ways to Encourage and Build Up.

**Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.**

Don’t miss the last part of that verse, **“Building others up,”...“According to their needs.”**

## What If You Get the Goods on Somebody and Find Out That They Are in Sin?

Apply Matthew 18:15-18 as well. If someone is in sin, what good does it do to tell someone else? To gossip, spread the word, throw shade? What can others do about it?

### Work With God for Restoration

**Galatians 6:1** Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

John Bradford, a Priest of the Church of England in the early 1500's, was arrested and imprisoned on a trivial charge of "trying to stir up a mob". At some time during his imprisonment, he witnessed a group of prisoners being led to their execution and remarked, "**There but for the grace of God, goes John Bradford,**" the phrase for which he is best remembered as "*There but by the grace of God go I.*"

When I see the sins of others, adultery, divorce, sexual immorality, idolatry, greed, alcoholism, drug addiction, family problems, bankruptcy..."**There but by the grace of God go I.**"

Instead of tearing down a fallen believer, try to **restore** the one in sin to fellowship with God. They may have blind spots in certain areas of their lives. They may be in Satan's trap.

Your act of confronting them may be exactly what they need to awaken them to their problem so that they can be set free.

**James 5:19-20** My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, **20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.**

### Taking Up the Offense of Another

**Proverbs 17:9 (NASB)** One who conceals an offense seeks love, But one who repeats a matter separates close friends. Sharing your hurts and bitterness with your friends leads to problems.

- Your friends will tend to "take up the offense."
- Later you may be restored with the one who hurt you, but your friends are still bitter. Now you have hurt your friends.

Paul put it this way... **2 Corinthians 2:5-11** If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. **6** The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. **7** Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. **8** I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

**9** Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. **10** Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, **11** in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

The fastest way to divide a church and grieve the work of the Holy Spirit is with the words of our mouths! Offending one another.

**Ephesians 4:29–32** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Division grieves the Holy Spirit. Here is what you need to do if you have been offended: **31** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **GET RID OF IT! THEN...** **32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Doing this will allow the light of Jesus shine bright and throw no shade!