

"Moreover, if your brother commits a sin against you, go and show him his fault—but privately, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he doesn't listen, take one or two others with you so that every accusation can be supported by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to hear them, tell the congregation; and if he refuses to listen even to the congregation, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax-collector. Yes! I tell you people that whatever you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven. To repeat, I tell you that if two of you here on earth agree about anything people ask, it will be for them from my Father in heaven. For wherever two or three are assembled in my name, I am there with them." Matthew 18:15-20(CJB)

“When Sin (Offense) Comes Into Our Lives” Pt 3

Sunday March 18, 2018

Subject: We are going to look at the Biblical way of how to handle sin (offense) that happens in our lives by another person.

- A. Take the Initiative
- B. Steps to be taken prior to going to him/her.
 - Remove bitterness and anger
 - Expect most hurts to come from family (natural/spiritual)
 - Correct your own faults before confronting an offender
- C. Examine possibilities or motivations, for the offense/sin that was done to us, before vocalizing the fault to the person.
 - **There are generally two scenarios that exist when offense/sin occurs against us:**
 1. We have “guns” loaded and ready to fire when we meet our offender. Their faults will be the focus.
 2. The offender has already justified themselves for the offense that occurred.
 - Remember, if we are in total obedience (or working towards obedience) then the offender could not have harmed us (GRACE). If we are not in total obedience (or working towards obedience), then God probably allowed the offense to occur, to get our attention and turn back to God and obedience.
 - This is exactly how God dealt with the Nation of Israel and her sinfulness.

James 4:10-12 (CJB)

2 Samuel 16:5-14 (NLT)

- **Is the offender being used to expose a weakness in my life?**
 1. All of us have weaknesses. We normally do not see them but other people do and

either endure them or react to them.

2. A weakness is a mannerism or habit that is offensive or very visible to other people.
3. It is a character deficiency that needs to be corrected and God will raise up strong friends or cruel people to reveal them to us.

- **Have I wronged them?**

1. All of us have the potential to offend someone with our actions and especially our tongue (James 3:5-6)

- **Has the offender taken up an offense that somebody else is carrying?** (Refer back to 2 Samuel 16:5-8)

- **Has my own "lust" caused the offender to offend?**

James 4:1-3 (CB)

- **Is the offender really needing help?**

1. It may be a cry for acceptance by the offender.