

ARE YOU OFFENDED?

22 July 2021

Psa 38:12-15 It is an established fact that people are going to offend us (Luke 17:1, Matthew 18:7). When that happens, if we can control our tongue and respond in a manner that does not return the offense, we could salvage many relationships, edify others, and glorify the Lord.

- Words can deeply hurt peoples' feelings and cause great emotional damage.
- You may say that you didn't mean what you said, but the Bible says you did (Mt 12:34).
- Since people are going to say hurtful things, you need to let the Bible instruct you as to how to deal with it.
- Those that we love the most can hurt us the most with the things they say.
- We must not let the sins of others provoke us to sin in return (Titus 3:2; James 4:11).

1. CHOOSE NOT TO HEAR (Psalm 38:13a, 14a).

- a. Jesus instructed us to be careful how we hear things (Lk 8:18, Mt 11:15, Lk 9:44).
- b. We need to be careful what we allow ourselves to hear and receive into our heart (Ezek 3:10).
 - i. If we save up hurtful words in our heart, they will spring out in bitterness (Heb 12:15).
- c. Jesus is our example. People slandered Him, lied about Him, gossiped about Him, called Him names, etc. He didn't strike back and try to even the score. He died for them on the cross.
 - i. If you retaliate when people offend you, you will not win them to the Lord.

d. Ecclesiastes 7:20-22.

- i. There is no just man on the earth, so we shouldn't be surprised when people sin against us.
- ii. Because we are all sinners, we should not take the evil things people say against us too seriously (don't take heed).
- iii. We are all guilty of saying things about others that we shouldn't say. Don't be a hypocrite and complain when others do it back to you.

e. James 3:1-10.

- i. Masters (those in leadership positions) will receive "the greater condemnation" (more criticism from people) because people are watching the leaders very closely (vs 1).
- ii. We all offend in many things (vs 2).
- iii. The tongue is a small member of our body, but it can do great damage if it is not controlled.
 1. Many wild creatures can be tamed, but the tongue cannot be tamed (vss 7-8).
 2. The same tongue blesses and curses (vss 9-10). We are going to hear others gossip and slander, etc. That doesn't mean we should participate. We certainly shouldn't spread it around.

2. CHOOSE NOT TO SPEAK (Psa 38:13b, 14b)

- a. You don't have to respond in kind. It is not necessary to retaliate or strike back.
 - b. **Isaiah 53:7**, Jesus Christ "**opened not his mouth**" even though He had every right to do so.
 - c. **Matthew 27:12-14**, Jesus was falsely accused, He amazed the governor when He chose not to answer. He took the slander and thereby glorified God.
 - d. **1 Peter 2:21-24**, Christ left us an example of how to respond (or not respond) when He was hated, despised, slandered, and made to suffer at the hands of men. He did not sin, He did not speak with guile (deceit, craftiness), He did not revile (insult or berate) others, and He did not threaten anybody.
 - i. Jesus bore all our sins (including sins of the tongue) on the cross (vs 24). Now He asks us to live unto righteousness.
 - e. **Psalm 119:165**, if you love God's words, you will believe what He says about how to handle offenses, and you won't let it offend you, causing you to sin in response.
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