Connect Study—Unoffendable

We are called to be unoffendable which means not to be hurt or offended by anyone, no matter what people say or do, regardless of how petty or how significant. As Christians, we do not have the right to be offended.

Three perspectives on being unoffendable:

1. Logical

People may offend us intentionally or unintentionally. If it was done unintentionally, then we don’t have the right to be offended. If it was done intentionally, we need to understand that hurt people hurt people. Instead of being hurt by them, we should hurt for them.

1. Biblical

The first one is the Matt 18 principle

Read Matt 18:15-17. In verse 14, it says, “if another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offence” The first principle is to go in private and sort it out instead of letting it fester.

Then the next few verses spell out the rules of engagement.

* Use the “I” statement. When you said/did\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I felt\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* You will ascertain whether it is intentional or unintentional.
* If it is intentional, but the person listens and confesses it, then let the matter drop.
* If it is intentional, but the person refuses to listen, then bring in another person with you
* If the person still refuses to listen, treat him like a “tax collector”. Look at how did Jesus treat the tax collector in the Bible for your example of this.

The second one is the example of Stephen

Read Acts 7:54-60

Stephen was like a church manager in charge of food program for thousands of people. He was full of the spirit and wisdom. He was also an astute theologian. He went into debates with the Pharisees and they could not stand his wisdom. They took him out of the city and stoned him. Stephen even at the face of such injustice, did not get offended and hurt by them but hurt for them.

1. Spiritual

Gal 5:16 exhorts us to “let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.” A quote from Derek Prince says “carnality is every moment we live without perspective on eternity”

Discussion Questions:

* Do you agree with the statement “As Christians, we do not have the right to be offended”? Why or why not?
* How do we differentiate between intentional vs unintentional offence?
* Think of some scenarios where you are offended, role play in the connect group as you would go about applying the Matt 18 principle in that situation.
* What does it mean to not be hurt by them but hurt for them? Can you describe what it means from your own experience?
* How does focusing our eyes on eternity help us to be unoffendable?