

## **A Biblical Response to Being Offended**

Matthew 13:15-22

**If another believer [offends] you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. (Matt 18:15-16 NLT)**

Primary point: We must obey Christ when we are offended in order to protect ourselves and others from the Devil's desires.

**A) Offenses will come** (Prov 10:19; James 3:2; 2 Cor 12:19)

**B) 1<sup>st</sup> step- forgive your offender!**

(Matt 18:21-22 NLT) **Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!**

How do we know if we have truly forgiven someone? We feel compassion toward them.

What is forgiveness? It is trusting God with what someone's actions have cost you.

Get the plank out of our own eye (Matthew 7:3-5)

**C) 2<sup>nd</sup> step- privately speak to your offender**

Don't presume your interpretation of things is correct (Prov 13:10; 18:17)

Don't gossip and slander (Rom 1:29-30; Rev 12:10)

**Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation but rescue us from the evil one. (Matt 6:12-13)**