

THE BAIT OF SATAN
SESSION 1 – The Bait of Offense

WHAT IS AN OFFENSE

NOTES

Luke 17:1 (NKJV) - Then He said to the disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come!”

Luke 17:1 (NLT) - One day Jesus said to his disciples, “There will always be temptations to sin, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting!”

Luke 17:3-5 (NKJV) - 3 Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.” 5 And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

- Shall = will have to/must

Skandalon (The Greek word for “offend”): This word originally referred to the part of the trap to which bait was attached/the bait stick of a trap. The word signifies TO SET A TRAP in someone’s way.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NKJV) - 24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Those who are offended with one another are taken captive by satan to do his will.

- Most people who are in the trap of offense do not even know it. If people knew they were in satan’s trap, they would not stay there.
 - 50-80% do not know that they are offended
 - The offense is the bait of satan.

Matthew 24:10-14 (NKJV) - 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- **Polus:** much, many great (many people).

Offense → Betrayal → Hatred

Proverbs 18:19 (NKJV) - A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle.

STRONGHOLDS

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV) - 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ...

Strongholds: reasonings/thought processes that are contrary to the will of God.

- God's word is a reflection of His nature = love
- Give, Give, Give

EXPECTATIONS

The person that can hurt you the most is the person that is closest to you. Why? Our expectations are higher

Psalms 55:12-14 (NKJV) - 12 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. 13 But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. 14 We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng.

- If someone does not meet your expectations → offense

WALLS OF PROTECTION

Offended people build walls.

- Instead of giving, focus becomes protection
- Freely you have received, so freely give
- Offended people have been hurt and do not want to get hurt again (at church).

A person with walls up is a perfect person for betrayal.

- Betrayal: My benefit/protection at another's expense.
 - Abandonment of a relationship. If no repentance, it will sever a relationship.
 - Betrayal leads to hatred.

Proverbs 18:1 (NKJV) – A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

VOID OF LOVE

1 John 3:15 (NKJV) - Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

- Hatred – love less, have no love (void of the love of God).

1 Cor 13:4-8 (NKJV) - 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

Mat 24:11 (NKJV) - Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

DECEPTION

Offense: Breeding ground for deception.

- After an offense there will be much deception.
- What is the problem with deception - it is deceiving.
- People that are deceived really believe that they are right, when in reality, they are wrong.

False Prophets

Mat 7:15 (NKJV) - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

- Wolves – try to isolate the sheep from the herd.
- **Prov 18:1 (NKJV)** - A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.
 - Begins with strongholds internally.

Mat 24:12 (NKJV) – “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

- In the last days, offense is going to be in the church

The trap of offense is one of the enemy's most deadly and deceptive traps. It imprisons countless Christians, severs relationships and widens existing breaches between us.

Nine fruits that result from offense:

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| (1) hurt | (6) strife |
| (2) anger | (7) bitterness |
| (3) outrage | (8) hatred |
| (4) jealousy | (9) envy |
| (5) resentment | |