

THE BAIT OF SATAN

SESSION 9 – Lest We Offend Them

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!"

TRUTH WILL OFFEND

Matthew 17:25-27 (NKJV) – 25 He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" 26 Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. 27 "Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

Galatians 5:13 (NKJV) – For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty [privilege] as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another?

SLAVE OR SERVANT

<u>Slave:</u>	<u>Servants:</u>
One who has to serve	One who gets to serve
Does the minimum required	Does the maximum potential
Goes 1 mile	Gets to go 2 miles (enjoys serving)
Feels robbed	Gives
Is bound	Is free
Fights for rights	Lays down his rights

STRONG IN FAITH

Romans 14:1-2 (NKJV) – 1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.

Mark 17: 18-20 (NKJV) – 18 So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, 19 "because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" 20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.

1 Corinthians 8:4, 6-7 (NKJV) – 4 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one... 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we

NOTES

for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. ⁷ However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

PERSONAL RIGHTS

Romans 14:12-13, 17 (NKJV) – ¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. ¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way... ¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus only offended is to obey the Father in truth. Whenever it came to preaching truth, He would offend because truth naturally offends people if they do not want to embrace it.

- You will never find Jesus offending anyone for His own personal rights.

CAUSE TO STUMBLE (SIN)

1 Corinthians 8:9, 11-12 (NKJV) – ⁹ But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak...¹¹ And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹² But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

Matthew 17:27 (NKJV) – ²⁷ “Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.”

Matthew 18:6-8 (NKJV) – ⁶ “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ “Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! ⁸ “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.

OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOR

Despite having certain rights as a new testament believer, there are time that we should bypass our right so not to offend.

- God is pleased that we are not using our privileges to

serve ourselves, but are using them to serve one another.

- Is it a New Testament privilege?
 - Will it cause someone to stumble?

Out right as new testament believer is not as important as causing one to stumble and possibly go to hell.

We are called through love to serve one another and never give offense in our behavior and hang on to our right.

2 Corinthians 6:3 (NKJV) - We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

1 Corinthians 10: 23-24, 31-33 (NKJV) – 23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. 24 Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being...31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

EDIFICATION TEST

Romans 14:19 (NKJV) – 19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.