

SINGLE ALLIANCE

05/11/08

The Roots of Offense

I. Introduction

- A. I want to talk about something that snags so many ministers. I am not talking about sex sins. I am talking about offence.
- B. We all have the opportunity to be offended but ministers get more opportunity than most because we minister to so many people.
- C. There are two times you will be tempted to be offended- Day and Night!
- D. I want to talk about the roots of offense
- E. You might want to hear a message on how to be a success in ministry. You are about to get one!
- F. This message began with God saying this to me- Every opportunity to get bent out of shape is an opportunity to be bent into shape- Romans 8:29
- G. I had the opportunity to get offended twice this week! I did not take them!

II. Offence

- A. There is no one that will not be tempted with this strategy of the devil.
- B. We have an opportunity to get offended when someone says something or does something to us that we do not like or hurts our feelings.
- C. Dealing with hurt feelings associated with an offence is very difficult and close to impossible without getting to the roots of it.
- D. Offense is a very dangerous thing to your life. You must recognize it when it comes and you must know what to do about it. You need to go after the roots of offense aggressively and pull them out!

- E. Some people are offended now and again, but others live offended. They do not get over one offense before another comes. This shows there are roots that have not been uprooted.
- F. The Hebrew word for offense means to sin against. When someone sins against us we will have an opportunity to get offended. When we sin against someone else then we are being used by the enemy to give them an occasion to take offense.
- G. The Greek word is ***skandalon***- this means to stumble into a snare. When we take offense first we stumble and our walk in the Lord is halted. We are no longer walking in:
1. Newness of Life- We are walking in our old life- **Romans 6:4**
 2. The Spirit- We are walking in the flesh- **Gal. 5:16**
 3. Love- We are walking in hate- **Eph. 5:2**
 4. Light- We are walking in darkness- **1 John 1:7**
 5. Wisdom- We are walking in foolishness- **Col. 4:5**
 6. Walking in Him- We are walking in us-**Col 2:6**
 7. Truth- We are walking in deception- **3 John 4**

Secondly we fall into the snare of the enemy and are held captive by Him. We in turn are used by the enemy when we are in his snare.

- H. Those who are offended offend people. The buried seeds of offense in the heart produce a crop of offense. Those who offend the most have taken offense the most. They are blinded to their

own offences, they only look how they have been offended.

- I. Taking offence makes you defensive. A defensive person is not a pleasant person to be around! A defensive person is an offensive person!
- J. Instead of getting defensive with an offence we must get offensive with an offence and remove it at its roots!

III. The roots of offence

- A. Anger- Anger is always a root to an offence. You must ask yourself a question. Why am I angry?
Gen. 4:6-Why are you angry? We must pour out our feelings to God! Many go off on people and others just suppress the anger. Both are not healthy. Pour your heart out to God. David did this best! God will then take you deeper to why you are angry. Anger is rooted in two things. Pride and Fear.
- B. Pride- **Proverbs 21:24**- When people touch the BIG I then there will be trouble! Prideful people are insecure people.
- C. Fear- What are you afraid of? When we are afraid we will we respond by flight or fight. Fear is an emotion and emotions are always rooted in our thinking and beliefs. Fear does not believe God!
 - 1. We fear getting hurt or hurt again
 - 2. What we fear most is rejection.
 - 3. Cain was angry because he felt rejected.
- D. **Mark 4:40**- Why are you fearful, why do you have no faith? We need to check up on what we believe when we get offended. Two lies the world believes
 - 1. My acceptance is based upon my performance

2. My acceptance is based upon other's opinion of my performance
- E. We will take offense at someone when we allow them to be the Judge that accepts or rejects us.
1. **Is. 33:22- God is our only Judge**
 2. We get into pride when we judge ourselves accepted or rejected. It is pride to allow another to judge us accepted or rejected.
 3. Any person judgment on our acceptance or rejection is invalid and illegal! This includes our relatives!
 4. We are accepted by the blood of Jesus by grace alone!

IV. Steps to getting out of the snare of offence

1. Ask why I am angry. Pour out your heart to God- Some people have this song playing in their mind- "I am hooked on a feeling..."
2. Ask yourself what are yourself why you are afraid
3. Admit where you are wrong
4. Ask yourself what am I believing
5. Ask God to provide for you and protect you
6. Forgive and bless those who have offended you