

Life Group Study Notes

Date: 22 March 2026

Sermon: Don't give or take offense

Speaker: Tony Gallagher



Scriptures: Luke 17:1-5.

Read over the following questions and attempt to formulate answers for some of them:

Questions:

1. Do you think people give or take offense more easily now than in earlier decades? What might be the reasons for that? Does II Timothy 4:3-4 speak into this trend?
2. V1. What is the likelihood of stumbling blocks occurring to trip people up? How serious is it to do that? (See also v.2)
3. V2. Who must one guard against tripping up? (I Cor. 8:9; Rom.14:1). Who are the ones who Jesus generally accused of doing the tripping up? (Read Matthew chapter 23, particularly verses13-15). How could Jesus' warning apply today?
4. Jesus was a stumbling block to the pharisees, to the Jews in general, and even to most of mankind in times to come. Why do you think people are offended by him? (I Peter 2:7-8)
5. Taking offense first occurred between Cain and Abel with deadly consequences. (Gen.4:3-9). Giving and taking offense still occurs in marriages, families and in the church. What are some of the causes of offense? (See James 4:1-3)
6. V3. How do you understand this verse? How could it be an antidote to offense? (See also Matt.18:15).
7. V4. In a marriage or close-knit church, over time there is bound to be offenses. How can we maintain a state of grace in our relationships?
8. Sometimes people get offended for no valid reason. It might be a personality clash or a difference in culture or style. How can we deal with negative feelings towards those people who are different from us?

Thoughts to ponder / action points:

- Offense is a sin that we harbour in our hearts. It doesn't go away or go out but tends to smoulder looking for an occasion to flare up.
- Is there a person in your family, at work or in the church for whom you harbour offense?
- Are you able to approach that person and humbly confess your sin to them? Would you approach someone who has hurt you and gently confront them? Would that heal the relationship?

Prayer:

Dear God, over the past few weeks we have learnt more about your love for us and have been exhorted to reciprocate that love, not only to you but also to our neighbour. It is hard to love someone whom we find offensive. Please increase our faith! Give us the courage and humility to go and repair relationships that have suffered under the burden of offense. In Jesus' name and by His power. Amen.