

Unoffendable #1: The Anger Myth

Q: On a Scale of 1(rarely) to 10 (regularly) how often do you experience the emotion of Anger In a significant way?

What if you choose to Live Unoffendable? What if you could live life without engaging in or carrying offense? And what if this one change could truly make life better?

We might have been taught that there is righteous anger (ok) and non-righteous anger (not ok)

We might believe that we are even SUPPOSED to get offended at times because of righteous anger and that we are to STAY Angry because we are supposed to stand up for what is right...

And the reality is that while the Bible has a lot to say about anger, very little of it is positive when it comes to **human anger**...

James 1:19-21:to Jewish Christians living in Social Tension in the Roman World

One of the verses that is often quoted about Anger and Offense in the Bible is Ephesians 4:26-27.... but we often leave out the beginning and second half of the passage...

“Be sure to stop being Angry by the end of the day” - We are not supposed to carry our anger.

And the Bible is very consistent on this point. But unfortunately, what we can often do is try and justify our anger in what we perceive is connected to God’s Anger....

What if the righteous Anger we try to attribute and own in our humanness is just meant to Belong to God?

What if He is the only one entitled to Righteous anger because He is the only one that can be trusted with it?

We are asked to FORGIVE other people!

What if Forgiveness is the Antidote to Anger- It is what helps us let go of anger and offense?

Let us define forgiveness for a moment. Forgiveness is not absence of wisdom. Forgiveness does not mean that you must forego the justice or consequences that are attributed to that person’s actions.

Forgiveness does not mean that you continue to be in that relationship and be retraumatized and used. Can you release people (forgiveness) and not continue in relationship with them-

YES!

Romans 12:18- PEACE AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU!

Forgiveness is the letting go of offense SO YOU can walk in Freedom, so that YOU can live without carrying offense.

Forgiveness is an expression of the Kingdom of God coming to earth. Unbelievers are Astounded by forgiveness in the face of violence

Acts of Forgiveness is a PROCESS that is multi-layered and multi-faceted. We cannot be tempted to oversimplification or imposing a timeline upon others.... other than encouraging a movement towards complete Forgiveness in God's strength....

When have you experienced the power of forgiveness in a meaningful way?

Recognize & remember just how good, gracious, and merciful God has been with you. What are some of the ways you have been influenced by God's goodness & grace?

What if the lifestyle of a Jesus Follower (disciple) is to serve as an instrument of forgiveness in the world?

-The Strength is in Knowing WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST AND WHOSE WE ARE!

-True Strength is in the Forgiver, not the one Forgiven **FREEDOM (Luke 4:18-19)**

- What if you could live in a way that you do not have to Strive to always PROVE THE POINT, to be always be right, to One-up, to Bully someone else, to BE THE ONE IN CONTROL?

What if instead of always looking for a reason to be angry, a reason to be offended you look for a reason to Love, a reason to FORGIVE because you have been loved & forgiven!

Matthew 18:21-35 THE STORY OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- Jesus tells this story to demonstrate how important forgiveness is for you.
- We have been forgiven a great debt, just like the servant.
- For us to then turn around and not forgive others (to hold onto offense) is opposite to how the Kingdom of God works...
- What does this story reveal about the way God expects us to treat each other?
- What if the Motivation, the reason for our actions, even how we protect each other is not because of offense, but out of love?
- **RESPONSE:** - Receive the Forgiveness of God (1 John 1:9) - Repent of your anger
- Let us say that right now you decided to forgive someone- to let go of your "right to be angry" and instead to offer forgiveness. Forgiveness like what you have received from God. What is that next step for you?
- Release others (Freedom) Some of us, have been carrying offense/anger toward others for years. It is time to let them go
- What can you begin to apply & practice from today's message- what is your next step?
 - An Unoffendable Life will take practice