

No Offense

How to Respond to Offense

October 11, 2026

Introduction

Hey everyone! I'm Mark and I want to welcome you to service. We are in the homestretch of our series, *No Offense*, based on John Bevere's, *The Bait of Satan*.

At the start of our series we saw that it would be impossible for no offenses to come. Offense is like pollution — it's in the air and all of us are exposed to it on a daily basis. We also learned that offenses always present an opportunity for growth. We will either grow bitter or we will grow better. If we respond to offense in the flesh (trusting our feelings or leaning on our own understanding) it will produce greater hurt, resentment, division, and isolation. But if we respond in the Spirit it will produce maturity, growth, and the character of Christ. To live according to the Spirit means that we do not gratify the desires of our flesh and do whatever we want but we submit to what the Lord is telling us.

And we see this motif all throughout Jesus' teachings. All of Jesus' teachings seem to stand in contrast to the way that we feel or how we think. In order to be the greatest, you need to be the least. In order to be strong, you need to be weak. If you want to be rich, you need to be poor.

"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death," (Proverbs 14:12).

The Bible says there is a path in life that seems right. It feels good and it makes sense. Not only that but everyone else seems to be taking it. But that path ultimately ends in death. Jesus put His own spin on this verse in Matthew 7,

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it," (Matthew 7:13-14).

There is a way that feels right and makes sense and it is the way most people go. But that road leads to destruction. Then there is a lesser known path — the path of the Spirit. It isn't obvious and very few people find it. But that path leads to life.

When it comes to offense, most people follow the same path. They react in a way that feels right and makes sense. If you attack me, I'll attack you. If you disrespect me, I'll disrespect you. If you cut me off, I'll cut you off. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. This is how most people react to offense but that path leads to greater destruction. Today we're going to talk about the path very few people find and even fewer take when it comes to offense. It goes against our feelings and doesn't always make sense but it is the path to life.

Testimonies

It has been so encouraging to hear how many of you are choosing the path to life when it comes to offense. Last week a brother in the Church shared how he was driving his truck when a reckless driver zoomed by and clipped his mirror, breaking it. Instead of chasing the driver down he thought, "Maybe it's a medical emergency or maybe this close call will be a wakeup call." And even when family members pushed him to take action he just released it to the Lord. That is the path less taken.

Another woman in our Church was recently scammed over the phone and her bank called to tell her that there were fraudulent charges on her account. But instead of spinning on it, she forgave that person and worked with the bank to settle the matter. That is the path less taken.

[Ron Goldman Testimony]

There is a way that appears right but it ends in destruction. But Jesus says there is another way, a hidden way, that leads to life. How does Jesus say we should respond to offense?

1. JESUS SAYS THERE IS NO 'THEM'.

⁴³ *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," (Matthew 5:43-44).*

²⁷ *"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you," (Luke 6:27-28).*

Jesus begins by addressing a common sentiment in His day. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbors and hate your enemy.'" What's interesting is that 'Love your neighbor' is Biblical (it comes straight out of Leviticus) but nowhere in scripture does it say hate your enemy. In fact, there are Old Testament passages that say the opposite. But somewhere along the line it became *inferred* that God liked certain people and He disliked certain people. God had friends and God had enemies. There were people God approved and everyone else was out. This may have been a sentiment spread by the religious leaders themselves. And even though this was 2000 years ago, how many of us still see this happening today?

Whether we realize it or not, and whether we admit it or not, many of us have created a 'them' haven't we? These are people we believe God does not like, they're outside, and because He doesn't like 'them' we don't like 'them'. Your 'them' could be people who vote differently than you. Your 'them' could be people who hold different theological beliefs than you. Your 'them' could be people who have a different lifestyle than you. Your 'them' could simply be people you disagree with or dislike. And the world says you should love your friends but hate 'them' (whoever 'them' is). Love the people who vote like you, worship like you, believe like you, share your values, but when it comes to 'them', ignore them, cancel them, oppose them, and cut them out of your life.

But when a Jewish man asked Jesus, 'Who is my neighbor?' Jesus told a story in which the hero was a Samaritan—the very kind of person many Jews would have considered 'them.' Whoever your 'them' is, whether they are Democrat or Republican, whether they are Baptist, Pentecostal, Muslim, or Buddhist, whether they identify as "He", "She", "They" or "Them", Jesus says they are your neighbor and you are to love them, do good to them, bless them, and pray for them.

Jesus doesn't deny that we will have enemies. 'Love your enemies' means there will be those who oppose you. He's not saying there won't be people who are different than us. But He is saying there is no category of people that are outside of our love. And when people do oppose us, avoid us, and even offend us, Jesus says we are to pray for them, find ways to bless them, do good to them, and ultimately to love them. To love someone does not require for me to agree with them, it does not require for me to approve of what they do, but it does require that I treat them with dignity and if at all possible, as far as it depends on me, to live at peace with everyone.

2. HOW WE LOVE, REVEALS WHO WE BELONG TO.

⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous,” (Matthew 5:45).

God causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall on all people. He doesn't have to do this. In fact in Exodus, just to make a point, God caused the sun to shine on only His people while the rest of Egypt lay in darkness. But this was a standalone event. God does not withhold His love or His goodness from anyone. He doesn't pick and choose who gets to experience His love. And Jesus says when we love without partiality, not picking and choosing who deserves our love, we demonstrate that we are God's children. This is super powerful.

In the Greek there are two words for son/child. *Teknon* and *Huios*. **τέκνον** is someone who is born into a family. They are biological offspring.

“Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children (Teknon) of God—” (John 1:12).

When you receive God and believe in Him, He gives you the right to be His *teknon*. This means you legally belong to His family. When my son Judah was born he became my legal son simply by virtue of being born. He was my *teknon*.

But there is another word for child and it is the Greek word, *Huios* **υἱός**. *Huios* is a child who represents their father's character and authority.

So when my son Judah was born, he became my *teknon*. But as he has grown people say things like, “You look like your Dad. You speak like your Dad. You think like your Dad. You have your Dad's sense of humor.” He is becoming my *Huios* because he is starting to reflect my character and nature. A *teknon* is a child by right, but a *huios* is a child by virtue.

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children (Huios) of God,” (Romans 8:14).

This is where you not only bear God's Name but you walk in His nature, You're empowered by His Spirit, You carry His nature, You walk like Him, You talk like Him, You love like Him, and people look at you and say, “Hey, you're just like Your Father!”

⁴⁵ that you may be children (Huios) of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous,” (Matthew 5:45).

God does not limit His goodness to only those who choose Him. God is good all the time, and all the times God is good, and to everybody! So when we love people, even when they offend us, even when they oppose us, and don't pick and choose, Jesus says, “Now you're walking like a child (*Huios*) of your Father in heaven!

But there's another significant difference between a *teknon* and a *huios*. *Teknon* emphasizes origin and shared life, but *huios* speaks of position, status, and privilege. A *huios* doesn't just belong to the family, they walk in their Father's character and authority and share in their Father's privilege.

3. GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO LOVE LIKE HIM.

⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect,”
(Matthew 5:46-48 NIV).

Jesus says there is no reward for those who love like the world. When we love those who love us, and greet those who greet us, we are being just like the world. When we repay evil for evil, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, we are being just like the world. When we withhold forgiveness, cut people out of our lives, break fellowship, and react in the flesh we are being just like the world. Jesus says there is no reward for that. But when we love in the same manner as our heavenly Father, God takes notice. He sees something rarely found on earth, He sees a reflection of Himself. Jesus doesn't explicitly say what the reward is. We know we will be rewarded with God's approval, we know we will be rewarded with Christ-likeness, and we know there will be an eternal reward for those who walk in His Spirit. Jesus demonstrated the perfect love of the Father and God exalted Him to the highest place. I pray that we would demonstrate God's love in the midst of offense and receive an eternal reward.

Groups Discussion Questions:

1. Who are your "Them"? Are there people who exist outside of your prayers, blessing, and goodness? What makes it so hard to love them the way Jesus commands?
2. How do you respond to offense? Is your response reciprocal or does it reflect God's love?
3. Is there a situation or person you find it hard to bless? Is there a practical way you could pray for, bless, or do good to someone who may not pay you back? What step could you take this week?