

School of Prayer

Removing Offenses

We Don't Know Our Own Hearts **Jeremiah 17:9**

The heart is the seat of desire....

The heart is the womb of our soul

It is the habitation of the Living God—His dwelling place

The Lord wants to teach us His ways by using an image that begins in Genesis and culminates in the Book of Revelation....

Genesis 2:10

Revelation 22:1-2

The same imagery shows up in Ezekiel 47:1-12 (everything will live where the river goes)

Proverbs 4:23

John 7:38 (how we are designed to function)

Matthew 18:7

Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! (KJV: Woe unto the world because of offenses!)

Offenses have that kind of effect on our hearts.

Removing Offenses

•You must begin by making a personal response. Before you can remove the speck in another's eye, you must remove the log in your own. (Matthew 7:3-5)

•Watch for patterns of response. Is the offense aimed at one—or shotgun/all encompassing. You could be dealing with forgiveness or withstanding a principality.

(Example: a child who suddenly resists going to school or church—if one (forgiveness) if all encompassing/perhaps a principality or a scheme of enemy)

•Offense can take place from a one time event (particularly with a child). A child's heart is virgin territory. If a lie is conceived before truth enters—they will bear the fruit of deception. (John 8:37-44)

•When offenses are shared—rather than cleansed—they multiply...even if sharing was unintended.

•**KEY:** When we are sinned against—we can take offense or take a righteous action. If we fail to take a righteous action, our heart will absorb the assault and our response can turn to offense. Righteous action: Use the right weapons: Sword of the Spirit/ which is the Word/Rhema of God----and----Shield of Faith: to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.

(When we think—"There is nothing I can do about the situation"...it can get sorted/ and saved as an offense)

•Once an offense is exposed—Ask the Holy Spirit for a Righteous Action/Response. (To declare we are offended through protest is insufficient. Being offended at an offense is insufficient to overcome it).

(Circular: Black Lives Matter---Police---Protest Football players---Offense continues to grow)

•Sins of omission can cause offense as well as sins of commission.

•Family—designed to be First Responders for one another's hearts. Checking in can expose offense before it gains a foothold.

•Model being quick to overlook an offense. (Proverbs 19:11)

"A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression."

(NLT—People with good sense restrain their anger; they earn esteem by overlooking wrongs.)

Definition of overlook: To have a view of something from above; a commanding position or view. (seated with Him in heavenly places –Eph 2:6)

Overlook does not mean ignore or stuff it.

"Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight but the careful arduous pursuit of reconciliation and justice. It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to set both the oppressed and the oppressors free."

From: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals

