



# Overcoming Offense

**Pastor Rob Gross**

**Proverbs 16:32 It is better to be patient than to fight.  
It is better to control your temper than to take a city.**

# Today's Takeaway

# **How to exercise self-control after you've been hurt or offended**

**Galatians 5:22–23 But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.**

# **An Irritating Text (Test Number 1)**

# My Fleshy Response

- **Irritation**
- **Imagination**
- **Justification**

**Galatians 5:19–21** **The wrong things the sinful self does are clear:** committing sexual sin, being morally bad, doing all kinds of shameful things, worshiping false gods, taking part in witchcraft, hating people, causing trouble, being jealous, angry or selfish, causing people to argue and divide into separate groups, being filled with envy, getting drunk, having wild parties, and doing other things like this. I warn you now as I warned you before: The people who do these things will not have a part in God's kingdom.



**Irritation + Imagination +  
Justification = Defamation**

# Defamation

- **Character assassination**
- **Libel via media**
- **Ruin someone's reputation via personal slander**

**James 3:6-10 The tongue is the most evil part of the body. It makes the whole body impure. It sets a person's whole way of life on fire. And the tongue itself is set on fire by hell. People have tamed all kinds of wild animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures. And they still tame them. But no one can tame the tongue. It is an evil thing that never rests. It is full of deadly poison. With our tongues we praise our Lord and Father. With our tongues we curse people. We do it even though people have been created to be like God.**

**God wants you to be like Jesus**

**God will offend your mind to reveal  
your heart in order to give you the  
opportunity to make you more like  
Jesus**

**John 6:60–61 Many of his disciples said, “This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?” Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, “Does this **offend** you?”**

**What did Jesus say that  
was so offensive?**

**John 6:50, 53, 56, 58 Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. So Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, **you cannot have eternal life within you**. Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did even though they ate the manna but will live forever.”**



**What was Jesus revealing?**

**John 6:61, 63, 66 Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, “Does this offend you? The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.**

# Why do we get offended?

- **Arrogance**
- **Pridefulness**
- **Self-sufficiency**

**But most of us get  
offended when we're hurt**

**It's not wrong to get offended-  
it's how you 'respond' that  
matters**

**Titus 2:2, 6-8 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.**

**How did I deal with my offense?**

# Step 1

Share/Vent

# Step 2

Feedback/Listen

# Step 3

Reflect/Why?



**"I want to be a gracious person."**

***-Pastor Barb***

**Step 4**  
**I Prayed**

**Lord, please forgive me for judging those who complain. I repent for and renounce not trying to see things from my neighbor's perspective and wanting to tell her off when she complained. Bless her. I forgive her. In Jesus Name, Amen.**

**Never waste a good offense**

**The Lord is revealing what's in  
your heart so you can choose  
to be more Christlike**

**Every time you choose to do things  
God's way you win! Every time you  
choose not to do things God's way  
the enemy wins 😞**

**Satan contests/The Lord tests**

**Just when I thought I  
was doing okay 🙄  
(Test Number 2)**



# A Unexpected Note

- **No permit**
- **You are in violation**
- **Please call**



**Permit!?**

**Did you call the inspector?**

**Why didn't you talk to us first?**

# Recognizing the Lord's Visitation

**Luke 19:41–44 He approached Jerusalem. When he saw the city, he began to weep. He said, “I wish you had known today what would bring you peace! But now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come when your enemies will arrive. They will build a wall of dirt up against your city. They will surround you and close you in on every side. You didn’t recognize the time when God came to you. So your enemies will smash you to the ground. They will destroy you and all the people inside your walls. They will not leave one stone on top of another.”**

**When the Lord visits us  
with a trial or challenge  
He's giving us what?**

**Romans 5:3-4 And that's not all. We are full of joy even when we suffer. We know that our suffering gives us the strength to go on. The strength to go on produces character. Character produces hope.**



**An opportunity to become  
more Christlike! 🙌**

**Trials, tests and challenges precede advancement or promotion in the kingdom**

**Our response determines  
whether or not we get promoted**

**A next door neighbor  
shows us empathy and  
confirms my suspicions 🙄  
(Test Number 3)**

**Bless Not Blast!**

**Romans 12:14, 17–19 Wish only good for those who treat you badly. Ask God to bless them, not curse them. If someone does you wrong, don't try to pay them back by hurting them. Try to do what everyone thinks is right. Do the best you can to live in peace with everyone. My friends, don't try to punish anyone who does wrong to you. Wait for God to punish them with his anger. In the Scriptures the Lord says, "I am the one who punishes; I will pay people back."**

# Blast

- **Confront in anger**
- **Plant tall trees**
- **Cold shoulder**

**Romans 12:20 But you should do this: “If you have enemies who are hungry, give them something to eat. If you have enemies who are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this you will make them feel ashamed.”**



**In the midst of the trial  
look for God's Blessing**

# Review: When You're Offended

- **Share why you're offended with someone wise**
- **Get feedback**
- **Reflect on why you're offended and repent**
- **Pray (Bless not blast!)**

**Have you died to yourself?**

Source Unknown

When you are forgotten or neglected and you don't hurt with the insult, but your heart is happy—that is dying to self.

When your advice is disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, and take it all in patient, loving silence—that is dying to self.

When you lovingly and patiently bear disorder, irregularity, tardiness, and annoyance...and endure it as Jesus endured it—that is dying to self.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation or record your own good works, or itch for praise after an accomplishment, when you can truly love to be unknown... that is dying to self.

When you can see your brother or sister prosper and can honestly rejoice with him, and feel no envy even though your needs are greater—that is dying to self.

When you are content with any food, any offering, any raiment, any climate, or any society—that is dying to self.

When you can take correction, when you can humbly submit

Finances

# Ministry Time