

10-8-17
WHY OFFENSES ARE NECESSARY?

Matthew 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Matthew 18:2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

Luke 17:2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Notice how the Lord likens His citizens, believers, to children. Just as Children are easily hurt and vulnerable so too it is with God's children. Children easily trust and believe. Every believer needs to have childlike faith in his Lord, and childlike trust. So in this way we are children. Remember that the Lord is giving an answer to this question:

Matthew 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

So the Lord calls a little child to himself and used the child as an object lesson for the virtues that his spiritual children should hold.

What are these virtues:

Children are Humble.

Have Faith, Trust.

Children have an Absence of Guile.

Children have a Simplicity about them.

Children have Innocent form of purity.

Yet the Lord gives a severe warning to those who would take advantage of the good nature of God's people. The Lord warns people about offending God's children.

There are many things that God allows in this life that we would question and even wonder about but they are necessary, One of these things our Lord mentioned was what He called offences. This morning I want to talk to you about why our Lord said that offences are necessary.

I. WHAT ARE OFFENSES?

skandalon, skan'-dal-on; ("skandal"); prob. from a der. of 2578; a trap-stick (bent sapling), i.e. snare (fig. cause of displeasure or sin):- occasion to fall (of stumbling), offence, thing that offends, stumblingblock.

----- Dictionary Trace -----
kampto, kamp'-to; appar. a prim. verb; to bend:-bow.

1. What does the word mean:

Word literally means stumbling block..
Or obstacle that causes another to trip or be hindered..
To cause someone to fall, trip up, ensnare, trap.

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

This is talking about offending one of God's children

Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

The offence that the lord is talking about in this verse is an offence against a child of God a believer..

The Bible says that offences will come.

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

Jesus said it is impossible to avoid offences, they will come.

2. What are some examples of offences:

An offence is something that causes a believer to be hindered in seeking to follow the Lord.

The Bible teaches us to walk in His commandments. There are those who would seek to hinder us from following the Lord. These are the ones who cast a stumbling block in the way of God's children.

An offence can come by way of false doctrine.

An offence can come by way of temptation to sin.

An offence can come by way of false direction and influence.

An offence can come when a person is used of Satan to hinder another person from doing the will of the Lord.

An offence can come when we see irregularities and spiritual quirks in a person's life.

Also an offence can be a perceived offence. In other words it is not a real offence.

Matt. 13:21 says that a person can be offended by the Word of God because they do not understand it.

3. A Biblical example of an offence that is bad:

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Peter tried to hinder Jesus from doing the will of God.

I Corinthians 8:4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

I Corinthians 8:5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

I Corinthians 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

I Corinthians 8:7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

I Corinthians 8:8 But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

I Corinthians 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

I Corinthians 8:10 For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;

I Corinthians 8:11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

I Corinthians 8:12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

I Corinthians 8:13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

The slippery road to a backslidden life is one violation of your conscience after another. Paul said if a person in his day viewed it wrong to eat meat in that day that was offered to idols and you encourage another believer to violate his convictions and sin against his conscience you cause an offence and do spiritual damage to this believer.

One sin leads to another and another in the slippery road to a reprobate life. One compromise opens a door to greater and greater compromise.

It would be like putting a beer before an alcoholic and saying it's ok just have one more. One sin leads to more sin.

An offence is anything you lay before a brother or sister in Christ to cause them to sin.

We need to be slow to offend.

We need to be slow to take offence!

II. Why Did Jesus Say It Is Necessary that Offences Come?

Now here is an amazing statement by our Lord.

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

Luke 17:2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Jesus said IT MUST NEEDS BE THAT OFFENCES COME?

He said ... it is impossible but that offences will come!

Why must it be so?

1. OFFENCES ARE THERE TO TEST US TO SEE WHAT WE ARE MADE OF:

Every person must be tested and tried to see what they are made of.

The purpose of a test is to see what a person will do under the strain of adversity.

All of this life is a test to see what you are worthy of in the next.

It is necessary that offences come so that we can be tested and proved.

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Imagine all that Job went through, to be tested.

Imagine all the the things that could have offended him in this life.

He actually had his wife say to him:

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

He lost all his Children in a day.

7 Sons, and three daughters all died in one day.

He lost all his wealth in one day.

He lost his health.

He was maligned of his friends.

WHY WAS ALL THIS NECESSARY?

It was necessary for Job to be tried.

Satan said take all that he has and he will curse you to your face.

Don't think for a minute that Satan is not doing the same thing in your life today.

This life is all but a series of trials but when we pass these trials we come out the better and stronger for it.

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

I RECALL WHEN I WAS A VERY LITTLE BOY IN GRADE SCHOOL. MAYBE 2nd GRADE:

I was struggling with the multiplication tables, struggling with simple math, maybe I was 7-8 years old. I remember sitting with my grandmother working on my math home work. I was so frustrated. I normally did not cry over things in school, but I remember that one time. I cried and cried and cried because I couldn't understand my homework. I prayed back then for God to help me. I wasn't a Christian then but I believed there was a God and I prayed. Suddenly it was like someone turned on a light and I started to understand the little math problems in my assignment. Do you know that after that for many years math was my best subject all the way through my school years until I got into high school.

It's a simple illustration but true that God has a way of taking your weakest point and making it your strongest through adversity and trials and problems.

Job said:

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

After Job passed the trial and adversities, and his offenders, in the latter end Job was blessed with sons and daughters, and double the cattle, and monetary blessings.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Offences are necessary, but offences do not come by way of the Lord.

In fact this is why when Peter tried to get Jesus not to go to the cross, He immediately cried out GET BEHIND ME SATAN.

If God does not tempt anyone to do evil than who does?

WOE UNTO THE WORLD.

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

Luke 17:2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

This is why when a person gives themselves over to do Satan's work and to fight against God's people and God, the Lord said it would be better that that person were never been born.

This is what Jesus said about Judas Iscariot.

Luke 17:2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Offences and adversities, are there to test us to see deep down what we are made of. But woe to the person who is the source of these adversities.

2. Offenses are necessary to teach God's Children Spiritual Lessons:

Parable of the wheat and tares is an example of why offences are necessary:

Matthew 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Matthew 13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

Matthew 13:26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

Matthew 13:27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

Matthew 13:28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

Matthew 13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The lesson is that the tares will be there and the enemy will do his mischief, but we need to keep our eyes on the Lord.

Why didn't Jesus root out Judas Iscariot? Did He not know that he was a tare amongst the wheat?

A. Jesus leaves the tares amongst the wheat to teach His children a lesson on trusting Him to be the great judge and He will separate the wheat and the tares in His time.

All the tares can do is annoy you.

They can do no harm as long as you don't try to deal with them in your own strength.

They are just elements of Satan's mischief. God says let them go. For two reasons:

- a. You will disrupt the wheat.**
Many times the tares are intertwined with the wheat.

Believers and unbelievers dwell together.

b. You may accidentally mistake some wheat for a tare.

When people get too concerned about tares, they disrupt the wheat. They cause offences. We think God needs our help in this matter. So often we get doing God's work in the flesh and fall flat on our faces.

Sometimes we get some zealous Christians that perceive the possibility that there are tares amongst the wheat so to speak. We need to learn the lesson of this parable, let things be, learn to trust God. The tares may grieve you, but remember to let God deal with people in his time.

We need to challenge people to examine themselves. We cannot judge motives and other things, we need to let God do that.

Usually a Judas will not stay in any given church for more than 3 years anyway. Let God deal with the issue. Tares are annoying but they usually will do no harm, and in fact rarely do they stay in one church very long to do harm unless we let them. Usually people who are not God's children will not endure listening to the word of God.

B. God leaves the tares to teach us to focus in on him alone.

Hardest thing to teach children is to be focused.

The attention span of a child is short and they are so soon distracted.

Most people do not succeed in much because they lack focus and can't stick with one thing long enough to succeed.

As God's spiritual children, He is trying to teach us to be focused.

So He will allow some offensive people to rub shoulders with us to see what kind of spiritual character we have.

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Sometimes the offenses are not offenses at all but some people are too sensitive.

Look at all that was done against Christ, was He offended?

Look at all that was done against Paul, was he offended?

Most people today perceive something to be an offense????

Each of us can have a perception of people that may be all wrong.

Jesus for 3.5 years tried to teach his disciples to keep there eyes focused on Him.

We need to pray that God puts blinders on our eyes so as we plow for God we plow in a straight line. We need not get side tracked.

God is looking to toughen our spiritual hides so He allows offensive people into our lives to see what we are made of.

Some people are looking for the perfect church. They wouldn't have been happy with the 12 Apostles, our Lord's first church!

3. OFFENCES ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE IN THE END TIMES THIS WILL BE A MAJOR TEST TO DIFFERENTIATE THE FRUIT OF THE WHEAT FROM THE TARES.

REMEMBER WE NEED TO BE SLOW TO OFFEND.
WE NEED TO BE SLOW TO TAKE OFFENCE.

God could have prevented Satan from tempting Eve but it was necessary that the offence come. It is a mystery as to why God let man fall, but somehow even through the offense in His grace He brings Salvation.

God could have intervened in so many offences, yet He didn't and does not because without the offence, or should we say tempter we could never see who we are and who Christ is. Yet in all this it is not God that tempts or causes the offence.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

God does not tempt any man. All temptation comes by way of Satan and his crew. Yet Jesus said WOE TO THE ONE CAUSING THE OFFENCE!! When you offend you are working on the side of Satan himself. Peter even slipped at times. Sad when those who are true Christians at times take the foot ball and run the wrong way because of spiritual ignorance.

Satan is the tempter and he is motivating all offences.
His children are called tares. They are the ones initiating the offences.
God's children are likened to wheat.

Parable of wheat and tares explained:

Matthew 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

Matthew 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Matthew 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Difference Between the wheat and tares:

Tares: A noxious plant, of the grass family, supposed to mean the darnel. It grows among the wheat everywhere in Palestine, and bears a great resemblance to it while growing - so closely that, before they head out, the two plants can hardly be distinguished. The grains are found, 2 or 3 together, in 12 small husks, scattered on a rather long head. The Arabs do not separate the darnel from the wheat, unless by means of a fan or sieve, after threshing (Mat. 13:25-30). If left to mingle with the bread, it occasions dizziness, and often acts as an emetic. ("Smith's Bible Dictionary", A. J. Holman Company, pg. 301.)

"This common Palestinian plant grows about two feet tall." Now notice this: "In its earlier stages it is indistinguishable from wheat. Only when the plant matures and the seeds of the darnel turn black is it easy to tell the difference. These seeds are poisonous, and if eaten, produce violent nausea, diarrhea, convulsions, and sometimes death."

You see, they were able to tell the difference because as the wheat develops, and the kernels grow inside the head of the wheat plant, the weight of the kernels causes the wheat stalk to bend, making the head appear to be bowing toward the earth. The tares, on the other hand, have light heads and they continue to stand straight and tall! The servants see the problem and offer to pull up the tares, but the master, knowing that the roots of the tares have intertwined with those of the wheat, forbids them. He knows that if the tares are pulled up, that much of the wheat will be uprooted along with them. His counsel is to let them grow together until the harvest, then he will send in the reapers to gather the tares first and bind them to be burned. Then the wheat will be gathered and placed in his barns.

Ultimately the offences that a person commits is evidence of their fruit.

Can't tell the difference between the wheat and tares until time of harvest when you can examine their fruit.

THE TARES PRODUCE TINY BLACK SEEDS. THEY ARE LIGHTER THAN THE WHEAT. So a tare stands proud and upright at the time of judgment. Jesus said by their fruit ye shall know them. How can you separate the offences from those who commit the offences? How can you separate a person from their fruit?

Just as it is impossible that everyone will be saved.
So it is impossible that there cannot be offences.

MAT 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

The wheat is weighted down by its fruit and humbled.
By their fruit ye shall know them.

III. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION FOR US TODAY:

1. You need to examine yourself:

II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

How many tares do you think the enemy would sow amongst the wheat?
The parable of the wise and foolish virgins may indicate a ratio:

Note what Jesus says about his people in the end time when he returns:

Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Matthew 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Matthew 25:3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

Matthew 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

If this parable is talking about the return of Christ at the rapture for His church, and the virgins are a picture of the church then you tell me how many tares will be amongst the wheat in the end times.

Sower of wheat and tares. I don't think the enemy just sowed a few tare seeds. He sowed as many tares as wheat, so it was 1/2 and 1/2.

I believe the larger the church the greater the ratio of tares. It is easier for them to hide. It is easier to sow tares in a large church than it is to sow tares in a small church, but Jesus had 12 apostles and one of them was a devil.

**2. If you are saved you need to trust the Lord and look only to Him.
If you get your eyes on people you will fall.**

Each of us needs to put blinders on. Those blinders allow us to focus in on the will of God for us and not on people. As you look on people you will become offended and stumble and trip. As you look to Christ and His will for you and His word you do the will of God.

I was saved in October of 1974, Married August 1975, went to Bible College Fall 1976. It was a real battle for me to go to Bible College. My dad knew I was trying to make a decision about a college and thinking about moving out of the area. He took me to Reedman's auto lot (at the time the largest car lot in the world.) and essentially said he would purchase me any car on the lot if I stayed in Levittown and went to a college in the Philadelphia area. He had apartment rentals in the area and was willing to give me a free apartment if I attended college if I went to a local college. I knew what he was trying to do, but I also remember, that just about the same time Carl Shanosk, a deacon in the church where I attended, after a service talked to me one day and opened his Bible to Genesis Chapter 12:1 and showed me a verse where God said to Abraham, ***“Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: “***

Carl knew that love for family would be a great stumbling block for me so the best thing for me to do to grow spiritually was to move away. So I did. I packed my bags bought a old 8' X 40' New Moon travel trailer to live in. It was like the one that Lucile Ball had in the movies in the 1950's. We just got settled in and started school, and then Wednesday Oct. 20th 1976 I got word that my Dad had a stroke because of diabetic complications.. (I was sure that this was what it was going to take to save my dad. But instead Dad died Saturday, November 13th, 1976... he never came out of his coma.

As I looked at many people in my School, all I could see at times were the tares. I would sense a spiritual battle around me all the time. The Bible says that we need to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind might. I didn't see a lot of that at times. I really could not understand what was going on. Why did God let this happen? It was a tough time for me spiritually.

After the funeral I sat in that little trailer and and opened my Bible and read John Chapter 6. I read how Jesus was preaching and teaching some things that really baffled his disciples. They were offended by what He taught. Remember I said, sometimes offences may just be perceived but not real.

John 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

John 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, **Doth this offend you?**

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

Offenses are necessary because it revealed the dedication of the true disciples.

A TRUE DISCIPLE'S FAITH IS STRONGER THAN ANY OFFENSE.

I wasn't in school for the tares.

I was in school to follow the will of the Lord, and would I allow circumstances of life or people to trip me up in that great goal of following the will of God?

NO. I was going to follow the Lord no matter what.

I put my hand to the plow even though I didn't understand why God let this happen. Even though this seemed to be an offence to my thinking. Things did not work out the way I thought God should let them work out.

I looked at that verse where Jesus said to Peter and His disciples:

DOETH THIS OFFEND YOU?

John 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

I looked at Peter's answer to Jesus and that had to be my answer:

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

It was then that I wrote the Scripture Song that we sang this morning: TO WHOM SHALL WE GO.

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

If you don't follow the Lord, you get out of focus and will get tripped up in this life. The hard times, the offences of this life are there to make you stronger. The offences are there to test you.

Just like when I was a little boy and I cried because I could not solve those math problems. Then I prayed and asked God to help me, and God turned the hardest subject in school into my best subject.

DOETH THIS OFFEND YOU? ARE YOU GOING THROUGH SOMETHING THAT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND? ALL YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS THIS:

You can be sure that Jesus Christ is the Son Of God, to who else can you go when you are going through difficult times when you don't understand some of the things that happen in your life, or that even God allows in your life.

Offences are necessary to build your faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. Live by this motto.

***I WILL BE SLOW TO OFFEND.
I WILL BE EVEN SLOWER TO TAKE OFFENCE.***