

## OFFENSES IN MARRIAGE/RELATIONSHIPS

Pastor Ted Bichsel

Recordings of this and many other great marriage/relationship teachings:

[www.sgtmarriages.com](http://www.sgtmarriages.com)

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OFFENSES –

**Opportunities To Be Offended**

John Bevere teaching

### SCRIPTURES FOR NOTES



1 Sam 3:1 3 The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. NIV

Ps 92:12-13 12 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; 13 planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. NIV

Ps 119:165 165 Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. NIV {NKJV “nothing can offend them”}

Mark 4:16-18 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. NIV

Gen 4:13-14 13 Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear. 14 Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." NIV

## *So what Does This Say to You?*

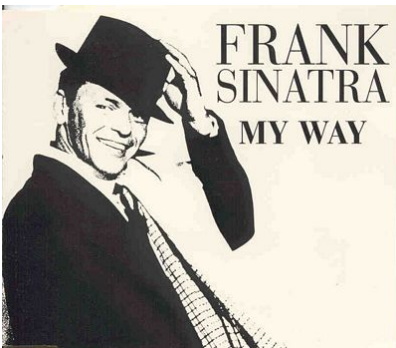
1. How does the subject of offense and John's statement, "It is not our responsibilities to correct fathers but fathers to correct children" overlap?
2. "An isolated person seeks only his own desire, not God's." J Bevere
  - How does this truth impact a relationship/marriage?
  - What does "isolation" in a marriage feel like > in part or in total?



## STOPPING THE OFFENSE BEFORE IT HAPPENS! Isa 55:8-12

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.  
9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 **so is my word that goes out from my mouth:** It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.  
12 **You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; ... NIV**

- We need to move from overcoming offenses as our main focus to not being offended at all.
  - Realize that this is all about God's transformation of ALL of our life not just the "offense" part.
  - "Our way" our flesh, our history, our culture is to be offended and be justified to be offended. His way...not so much.
- This is a process not a declaration. If we were not followers of Christ this **would not** be an issue. But I want the "higher way" that He promises me for:
  - A marriage where we are not "walking on eggs" or giving the "silent treatment".
  - Relationships that are not about enduring and hanging on.
  - My personal life that is not a: "that's just the way I am" attitude.
- Key question with an "OFFENSE MOMENT"
  - What do I have to learn here?
  - Where is God in the midst of this?
  - What has to change for me to respond "His Way?"
    - Phil 4:8,9 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. NIV
    - **JUST WRITE IT ALL DOWN!** Then think on it!



IT REALLY DOES MATTER! Mark 4:16-18

16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution (OFFENSES) comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. NIV

- The Word and the action that is connected with it.
- Eph 5: 21-33 > the attitude of husbands and wives towards each other
- Get the roots down. Realize the roots that matter allow you to sustain His purpose for you in every situation.
- Matt 7:7> Ask/Seek/Knock

"Two people who do nothing but fight in their marriage and make each other miserable are not engaging in a helpful spiritual exercise. It's only when we put struggle within the Christian context of character development an self-sacrifice that it becomes profitable"

Gary Thomas [A Sacred Marriage.](#)

- Then the offense response is an indicator of how much our character is developing. The irritation of sand in an oyster produces a pearl!