

Taking Offense. Or Not. Message 3 "Or Not"

July 22, 2012

Message Outline



Offenses happen!

Offense-taking is pretty ugly stuff!

Proverbs 18.19

Offenses don't have to be as wounding as I thought

1. Honoring One Another Above Ourselves

Romans 12.9-21

The game changer: Jesus is in my offender!

John 14.20

2. Choosing Humble Love Over Power

Luke 23.34

The pull to power we feel inside comes from pride

3. Having A Hard Conversation

Proverbs 27.6

Plan to be brief

Get over trying to change the other person

Commit to be a learner and listener

Don't go expecting an apology

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1. Read and consider Proverbs 18.19 in a couple different bible translations. Think about how you become like a thick, stony, cold, overgrown wall when you take offense.
2. Think about a time someone offended you but you discovered later it was simply a miscommunication, totally unintentional, or there was some compelling reason you were unaware of, that had nothing to do with you. Next time you're offended, give grace. Don't assume bad or evil intentions. I like to say, "the facts are usually friendly."
3. We talked Sunday about alternatives to taking offense when offended. One plan is to have a difficult, loving, honest conversation with the person we feel offended by. Read Jesus' words about children of God in Matthew 5.9. What is the difference between a *peacemaker* (Jesus' word) and a *peacekeeper*?
4. Think about someone who has offended you. And you realize you've taken offense. Consider having a difficult conversation with this person. Prayerfully think through what you would want to communicate. Write it out. Read Pastor Gary's blogposts on "Having Hard Conversations" (www.paseodelrey.org) over the next couple weeks. Share your plan with one trusted, confidential friend who will give you honest feedback and pray for you. Ask God for courage to lovingly communicate with the person you've felt has offended you.