

Heroic Confidence

Becoming Unoffendable

After Pentecost, the early Christians had a unique strength. Not only did they boldly proclaim the Gospel, but they were immune to insults and taking offense. As followers of Christ, we must choose to avoid giving offense, but we must also choose to not take offense. Being offended is always a sign of immaturity. Christians must be so grounded in the truth and rooted in our identity in Jesus that we choose to become unoffendable.

Discussion Questions

1. There is certainly a coarsening of language and manners. Why must Christians not sink to the level of treating others like this? Have you ever struggled with this?
 2. Have you noticed the “culture of offense”? The idea that a person can “shut down” a conversation simply by appealing to the idea of being offended? Please describe.
 3. The disciples (and later on, the saints) seemed to be unoffendable. Why do you think that this was? What helped them live that way? Is this something we should all strive for? Why or why not? Discuss.
 4. “Being offended is always a sign of immaturity.” Do you agree with this statement? Discuss. (Keep in mind that fathermike is assuming that we can make the distinction between “being hurt” — which is often out of our control — and “being offended”.)
 5. Refusing to take offense is not license for others to treat you like a doormat, but rather *refusing* to be torn down or diverted from the mission God has entrusted to you. How could you be a better witness to Jesus if you were unafraid of what other people thought?
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God in Real Life

1. This week, reflect on a time when you have been offended. In prayer, discern to what degree the offense was accurate and the degree to which it was not true. If it was accurate, the offense is merely your own pride. If it is not true, why does it hurt? Bring this to the Lord.
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To the Heart

“The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult. ~Proverbs 12:18