

Good Morning Children of God!

We are blessed and included by God into His Family.

If this is true, what do we do with it?

What does this matter for the living of life?

Life Eternal! How is it different than a non-Christian?

Don't let yourself be offended.

Don't choose to be offended.

**Forgive offense and Bless those who persecute you!**

I was watching John Bevere preach on the *Bait of Satan*.

**[1] Offenses Will Grow**

**[2] Expectations Higher of Christians**

**[3] Unlimited Forgiveness**

**[1] Offenses Will Grow**

In the last days offenses will grow and be taken to heart. Maybe there are just so many of them (Facebook, Twitter, Text, phone, newspapers, frantic life, fiery arrows of the enemy).

**Matthew 24:10-13 The Passion Translation (TPT)**

**<sup>10</sup> Then many will stop following me and fall away,<sup>[a]</sup>**

[A The Aramaic is “Many will stumble” (or take offense).]

**and they will betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many lying prophets will arise, deceiving multitudes and leading them away from the path of truth. <sup>12</sup> There will be such**

**an increase of sin and lawlessness that those whose hearts once burned with passion for God and others will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But keep your hope<sup>[b]</sup>**

[The Greek is “endure.”]

**to the end and you will experience life and deliverance.**

Many (51% or more).

Offended, wounded, hatred.

### **Proverbs 18:19 The Passion Translation (TPT)**

**<sup>19</sup> It is easier to conquer a strong city than to win back a friend whom you’ve offended. Their walls go up, making it nearly impossible to win them back.<sup>[a]</sup>**

[Or “A brother supported by a brother is like a high, strong city. They hold each other up like the bars of a fortress.]

An offended brother is harder than walls of a citadel.

Walls of protection, a stronghold.

### **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 The Passion Translation (TPT)**

**<sup>3-4</sup> For although we live in the natural realm, we don’t wage a military campaign employing human weapons, *using manipulation to achieve our aims*. Instead, our *spiritual* weapons are energized with divine power to effectively dismantle the defenses *behind which people hide*.<sup>[a]</sup>**

Or “strongholds.” The Aramaic word for strongholds can also be translated “rebellious castles.” Paul seems to be referring to demonic strongholds or centers of opposition to the light of the gospel.

**<sup>5</sup>We can demolish every deceptive fantasy<sup>[b]</sup>**

Or “citadels of argumentations,” which include fantasies.

**that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God.**

**We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought<sup>[c]</sup>**

Or “every scheme.” Paul is using the concept of taking prisoners of war, but in this case the prisoners held captive are faulty patterns of thought that defy God’s authority.

**and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One.**

We are not warring according to the flesh.

We fight in imaginations or reasonings.

Take thoughts captive!

Betrayal means to seek our own protection or benefit over that of others.

Strongholds are arguments, imaginations, reasonings contrary to the Word of God.

The Nature of God is to Love.

Love, love, love vs. Protect, protect, protect.

Hatred is the absence of Love, like apathy, we don’t care.

Void of Love – Loveless

**Matthew 24:11 The Passion Translation (TPT)**

**<sup>11</sup> And many lying prophets will arise, deceiving multitudes and leading them away from the path of truth.**

False Prophets rise up and deceive the offended.

Deception is a breeding ground in an offended heart.

False Prophets will go around in packs— isolate the sheep from the herd.

Isolate in thinking process, so that the soul is in isolation.

Lawlessness abounds!

We become laws unto ourselves!

*Anomeia*- not submitted to God.

Matthew 24:12 The Passion Translation (TPT)

**12 There will be such an increase of sin and lawlessness that those whose hearts once burned with passion for God and others will grow cold.**

They think contrary to the Word of God.

Offended, love grows lukewarm.

John Bevere says that “grumpy” is offended. That’s a quote.

He reminds us that “Agape is the Love God placed in Christian Hearts.”

Fire and passion for God will grow cold like a dying ember.

Those closest to you = can offend you the most.

EXPECTATIONS

**[2] Expectations higher of Christians.**

Expect zero of the world and then they give little, you think it is a blessing.

Wow, they did that?!?!

For Christians we expect them to be better, and when they give the same as the world, and it violates our expectations. We do this to God too, and our spouses and pastors.

John Bevere divides the world into two groups:

[1] There are those in the earth who are genuinely mistreated.

For them we have SOZO inner-healing prayer and counseling.

We need to be like Joseph who constantly trusted God and took his offense to Him.

Bevere writes: "If you stay free from offense you will stay in God's will. If you become offended you will be taken captive by the enemy to fulfill his own purpose and will. Take your pick. It is much more beneficial to stay free from offense" (p.30). Resist the devil and he will flee from you. God has a way planned for you to escape the devil, a road to fulfillment through obedience to God.

Look at David and Saul. David never threw a spear at Saul. God avenges us, not we ourselves (46).

There is no perfect church leadership. Only Jesus is perfect, but we try to follow Him, listen to Him, obey Him, seek Him.

Friday I took all of the tables and chairs out of the Youth Room. I forgot that Osmel and Keila teach a seminary class in there the last Saturday of the month. I did not check the calendar. I did not support their important teaching ministry with my actions. Forgive me.

[2] There are those who think or perceive that they have been mistreated, or interpreted that they have been mistreated.

Bevere reminds us that we have a right to do anything. We have a right to go to hell if we choose and God will protect that right.

For those genuinely wronged, we are reminded that we should forgive as we are forgiven by Jesus. That God is the healer of hurts and He is with us in our troubles and traumas.

For those who walk with God, we have not right to be offended.

We give up that right the more mature in Christ we are. Me too!

“You don’t know what they did to me.”

Bevere reminds us, “we don’t know what we did to Jesus.”

“A person who cannot forgive has forgotten what they have been forgiven of.”

“Unconditional love gives others the right to hurt us” (p16).

Are we receiving and giving life (Sea of Galilee) or Dead Sea?

Are we so protected and controlling that life does not flow?

Are we stagnant?

### **[3] Unlimited Forgiveness**

Matthew 18:21-22 The Passion Translation (TPT)

**<sup>21</sup> Later Peter approached Jesus and said, “How many times do I have to forgive my fellow believer who keeps offending me? Seven times?”<sup>[a]</sup>**

[The Hebrew Matthew is “Seven times in one day?”]

**<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “Not seven times, Peter, but seventy times seven times!”<sup>[b]</sup>**

[Or “seventy-seven times.” This is a metaphor for an attitude of forgiveness that is limitless.]

70 x 7 = 490 times, and Luke says that’s in one day.

Once every 3 minutes if we don’t sleep. Lockin, be forgiving!

We are fellow servants who are forgiven the great debt. Fellow servants in the Kingdom, church!

Inexhaustible forgiveness is the watchword.

10,000 talents would equal 5 billion or an unpayable debt.

300 Denare was 1/3 of a year’s salary, like 10,000 if you make 30,000 per year.

It is a Big deal. But it compares to the impossible deal.

Proverbs 6:16-19 The Passion Translation (TPT)

Seven Things God Hates

[The number seven is the number of fullness and completion. The poetic form here is stating that evil in its fullness is an abomination to God. The seven things are a description of the sin of man that stands in the temple of our bodies attempting to usurp God.]

**<sup>16</sup> There are six evils God truly hates and a seventh<sup>[a]</sup> that is an abomination to him:**

**<sup>17</sup> Putting others down while considering yourself superior, spreading lies and rumors, spilling the blood of the innocent,**

**<sup>18</sup> plotting evil in your heart toward another, gloating over doing what’s plainly wrong,**

**<sup>19</sup> spouting lies in false testimony,  
and stirring up strife *between friends*.<sup>[b]</sup>**

[The Aramaic is “deception among brothers.”]  
These are entirely despicable to God!  
Treat gossip like adultery.

Turned over to torturers, demons.

Matthew 18:31-33 The Passion Translation (TPT)

**<sup>31</sup> “When his associates saw what was going on, they were  
outraged and went to the king and told him the whole story. <sup>32</sup> The  
king said to him, ‘You scoundrel!’<sup>[a]</sup>**

[The Hebrew Matthew is “You servant of Belial!”]

**Is this the way you respond to my mercy? Because you begged  
me, I forgave you the massive debt that you owed me. <sup>33</sup> Why  
didn’t you show the same mercy to your fellow servant that I  
showed to you?’**

God will do to you who do not forgive. The wicked servant was in  
the kingdom, not a heathen.

He had been forgiven so, so much.

Matthew 18:35 The Passion Translation (TPT)

**<sup>35</sup> In this same way, my heavenly Father will deal with any of  
you if you do not release forgiveness from your heart<sup>[a]</sup>**

[The Hebrew Matthew is “with a perfect heart.”]

**toward your fellow believer.”**

Holy Father will do if you don’t forgive your brother o’person of  
faith.

Bevere was too proud to say he was offended.

He felt the fire dying.



Acts 24:16 The Passion Translation (TPT)

**16 That's why I seek with all my heart to have a clean conscience toward God and toward others.**

He exercised himself

TO void offense from my conscience.

It is a conscious act.

You eat. You void your bowels.

Wounds don't heal overnight.

If not properly treated, they will never heal.

Out of shape spiritually? Weak?

Strong in Spirit, one cannot be hurt or wounded.

Weak = deep wound.

Matthew 5:44 The Passion Translation (TPT)

**44 However, I say to you, love your enemy, bless the one who curses you, do something wonderful for the one who hates you,<sup>[a]</sup> and respond to the very ones who persecute you by praying for them.**

Pray for anyone who mistreats you. Any who abuse you.

Psalms 35:11-12 The Passion Translation (TPT)

### ***Part Two – David, a Witness***

**11 They are malicious men, hostile witnesses of wrong.**

**They rise up against me, accusers appearing out of nowhere.**

**12 When I show them mercy, they bring me misery.**

**I'm forsaken and forlorn, like a motherless child.**

Pray what is truth.

Don't masquerade, jesting as forgiveness.

Real reconciliation.

Reconcile when repent.

Goodness of God—creates an atmosphere of forgiveness.

Luke 17:1 The Passion Translation (TPT)

Faith and Forgiveness

**17 One day Jesus taught his disciples this: “Betrayals<sup>[a]</sup>**

[As translated from the Aramaic. Other Greek texts use the words “temptation” or “to stumble]

**are inevitable, but great devastation will come to the one guilty of betraying others.**

Opportunity for offense.

*Skandalon*—bait stick of trap. That scent that lures us in.

2 Timothy 2:25-26 The Passion Translation (TPT)

**<sup>25</sup> Then with meekness you'll be able to carefully enlighten those who argue with you so they can see God's gracious gift of repentance and be brought to the truth. <sup>26</sup> This will cause them to rediscover themselves<sup>[a]</sup>**

[Or “come to their senses.”]

**and escape from the snare of Satan who caught them in his trap so that they would carry out his purposes.**

Are you releasing pure water?

Are you releasing tainted water?

Offense turns off the faucet.

Separates you from God.

Turn the faucet of Living Water back on.

Let God's love flow into you always.

He is the same in His Love always, our receptors are what limit us. Our walls, our dams and dykes.

**Forgive offense and Bless those who persecute you!**

**[1] Offenses Will Grow**

**[2] Expectations Higher of Christians**

**[3] Unlimited Forgiveness**

Let healing rivers flow.

Altar Call