



## The Right To Be Offended

January 20, 2019

Dan McEvoy

**Q—How have you been offended lately?**

*A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.* Proverbs 19:11 (NIV)

**Sermon in a Sentence:** In order to overlook an offense, we must embrace God's grace extended to us.

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought. But rather, think of yourself with sober judgment in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

Romans 12:3 (NIV)

### When I Embrace God's Grace:

⇒ I will \_\_\_\_\_ others the benefit of the doubt.

*Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.* Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

*When you are angry, do not sin, and be sure to stop being angry before the end of the day.* Ephesians 4:26 (NCV)

*See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.* Hebrews 12:15 (NIV)

⇒ I will \_\_\_\_\_ my anger and act in love.

*Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.* Romans 12:21 (NIV)

⇒ I will \_\_\_\_\_ as I have been forgiven.

Matthew 18:35 (NLT)

Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

**Q—In light of God’s forgiveness you have received, what offense do you need to overlook to forgive?**

ANSWER KEY: give, control, forgive



### Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

**Theme:** Forgive for Forgiveness

**Warm Up:** What was the first debt you paid off and how did you feel when you paid it off?

**Sermon Response:** What impacted you most from Sunday’s message? Why are we so easily offended?

**Read:** Matthew 18:21–35

#### Discuss:

- What do you think was Peter’s motive in the question he asked Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus told this story to Peter and those who heard him?
- If this story represents God’s kingdom, it implies that Jesus believed people owe a great debt to God that he is willing to forgive. What debt would people owe to God that would need forgiveness?
- What is Jesus’ reason for the extreme contrast of amounts the first debtor owed versus the second debtor?
- Based on what you learned from this story, would you say God’s forgiveness of us is limited or unlimited? Conditional or unconditional? How about our forgiveness of others?
- What are the benefits of forgiving others, not only for the person(s) we forgive but for ourselves? What is a personal example you could share?
- What are the alternatives for people who do not forgive?
- What effect does unforgiveness have on our lives?
- How is it easier to forgive in light of the forgiveness we have received from God, and from others?
- How do you struggle in the area of forgiveness, for which you need prayer?

**Prayer:** Share needs and also ways God has answered prayer in your group.