



MESSAGE REVIEW

Being offended by someone or something is inevitable in our lives. Jesus even taught His disciples, "Offenses will come." We will encounter stumbling blocks designed to trap us and lure us into sin. But the mission of the Church is far too critical and God's plans for your future are too big for you to hold onto an offense! Jesus went to the cross for our offenses. As a result, we can choose to step over the offenses in our path and lead with love.

WARM UP QUESTION

Describe a time when you had to trap a critter or an animal and how you went about doing it.

1 **Read Luke 17:1 and 1 Peter 5:8-9.** What do these verses tell us we can count on when it comes to opposition, temptation, and offenses against us? Who is at the root of them? What can we do when they come? How does unity in the body of Christ help us?

2 **Read Hebrews 12:14-15.** How does verse 14 point to the importance of both our vertical relationship with God and our horizontal relationships with others? How does working at each of those help prevent bitterness in us?

3 When have you experienced bitterness taking root in your own life? Who does it affect? Why is bitterness so dangerous, especially in believers?

4 **Read Proverbs 19:11, 10:12, and 12:16.** How does a wise person act and use words according to these Proverbs? Think about someone in the faith that you greatly respect. How did they earn your respect by overlooking wrongs? How did they lead with love?

5 **Read 1 Peter 2:21-23.** How did Jesus set the example for us in looking over offenses? What offense(s) do you need to entrust to God, the fair and righteous Judge?

RESPOND

What have you learned about God from His Word? How is He asking you to apply it to your life? When will you apply it?

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