



Part 5:
Unoffendable
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Parents offend their kids by:

- 1) Being controlling
- 2) Being quick-tempered
- 3) Being absent
- 4) Demanding performance
- 5) Making (or enforcing) rules without reason

Kids offend their parents through:

- 1) Quiet resentment
- 2) Withholding appreciation
- 3) Disrespect
- 4) Disobedience
- 5) Judging

The Key Cause of Any Offense: Unmet expectations

Matthew 24:10-14

¹⁰At that time many will turn away [*be offended* – *KJV*] from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Three Dangerous Results of Harboring an Offense

- 1) Betrayal (vs. 10)
- 2) Hatred (vs. 10)
- 3) Cold love (vs. 12)

So what do I do?

- 1) Understand how God forgave you of your offense

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. – Matthew 6:12

"God calls you to honor your parents—not change them. They're imperfect, but honoring them doesn't depend on them being worthy of honor. You do it because God commands it, not because they deserve it." – **Bruce Johnston**

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2) Check yourself

There is a class of people who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers. There is a class of people who are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their own filth. There is a class of people—oh, how lofty are their eyes and their raised eyelids! There is a class of people whose teeth are as swords and whose fangs as knives, to devour the poor from the earth and the needy from among men.

– **Proverbs 30:11-14** (Amplified Bible)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. – **Psalm 139:23-24**

3) Start over

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. – **Ezekiel 36:26**

On Your Way Home

Why do you think God cares so much about parent/kid relationships?

Group Life Discussion Questions



- 1) Describe your parents. How has your childhood affected the way you live life in the present?
- 2) How do you think family members most often offend each other?
- 3) Do you have any experience in harboring an offense? How did your inability to forgive or to be forgiven affect your spiritual life?
- 4) Have someone read Psalm 103:8-13 out loud for the group. How does God respond to our offenses? How can we justify any other response to the people who have hurt us?
- 5) If you can, give the first name of someone you are struggling to forgive and release from your judgment. Have the group pray that you will be able to be like Jesus—and forgive.
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?