

Part One- Defining the Meaning and Extent of Offences

1. What is the difference between having a disagreement and becoming offended?
2. Have you ever been offended by something another Christian did or said?
3. Have YOU ever offended another Christian by something that YOU did or said? Did you know you had done it, or were you totally unaware?
4. Can you think of New Testament examples of people having disagreements or being offended?
5. Because something you did or said upset or offended someone, does that prove that they are right and you are wrong?
7. I have a point that relates to the following scripture. If you have time, please read it before Sunday.

1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 27

12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. 13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15 If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21 The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23 And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24 while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together

such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. 25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

8. Are there things that should offend Christians?

9. Can you think of a person in the NT who is specifically mentioned as offending a lot of people?