

## Part Two- Trying to Fix Relationships Affected (or Infected) by Offence

11. Does the Bible give us any direction on how to deal with offences, how to bring correction, how to restore damaged relationships?

(a) We are warned that it can be close to impossible to “fix” the situation.

### Prov. 18: 19

“An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.”

(b) We are encouraged to try anyway- but to be discerning about who we get involved with.

### Proverbs 9: 7-9

Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

### Matthew 5: 9

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

### Matthew 5: 23, 24

“If you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.”

(c) Progressive Steps?

### Matthew 18: 15- 17

“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.”

**12.** Who should be the one who goes and tries to make things right- the person who did the offending, or the person who was offended?

**13.** How far should we go to avoid offending someone? At some point, does it make sense to instruct the “weak” believer rather than to keep accommodating their propensity to be offended?

Romans 14: 13, 20, 21

“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another, but resolve instead, never to put an obstacle or a trap (or “snare” in some translations) in a brother’s way....Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. All food is indeed clean, but it is wrong to cause another to stumble by what you eat. It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine or to do anything that makes your brother stumble.”

1 Corinthians 8: 9, 13

“But take care that this right of yours does not become a stumbling block to the weak....Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, again I will never eat meat, lest I cause one of them to stumble.”

1 Corinthians 10:32

“Do not be a stumbling block to either Jews or Greeks, or to the church of God.”

2 Corinthians 6:3

“We do not put a stumbling block in anyone’s way, so that our ministry may not be faulted.”

**14.** Is there anything a Christian can do to avoid feeling offended by a fellow believer?

Prov. 19: 11

“Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.”

John 13: 35

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 Cor. 13: 4-7

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever

the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

### Colossians 3: 12-16a

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom....

### James 1: 19

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

### Jude 1:24

“Now to the one (Jesus) who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in his glorious presence without blame and with great joy....”

### Four strategies

(I'll discuss these on Nov. 12):

**15.** Does the Bible teach “reconciliation at all costs”, or can there come a time to go your separate ways?

**16.** Jennifer LeClaire, who writes for Charisma magazine thinks that the root cause of offence is pride. She has written an article called 16 Ways to Discern an Offended Heart. You can read her article at:

<https://jenniferleclaire.org/articles/this-destructive-spirit-is-destroying-destinies>

I wish I had time to go through all 16 of her points that describe various characteristics of an offended person, but I don't. I've modified and condensed her list to these six points:  
(which I'll discuss on Nov. 12)