

LIVE  UNOFFENDED



Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.



Hebrews 12:15

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;



Offense:

1) a breach of a law or rule; an illegal act.

2) annoyance or resentment brought about by a perceived insult to or disregard for oneself or one's standards or principles



Conflict:

*a serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one.

**be incompatible or at variance; clash.*



The closer the relationship, the more severe the offense



Ps 55:12

*For it is not an enemy who reproaches me,
Then I could bear it;
Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted
himself against me,
Then I could hide myself from him.*



Psalms 55:13-14

*But it is you, a man my equal,
My companion and my familiar friend.
We who had sweet fellowship together,
Walked in the house of God in the throng.*



Proverbs 18:19

*A brother offended is harder to be won than a
strong city,
And contentions are like the bars of a castle.*

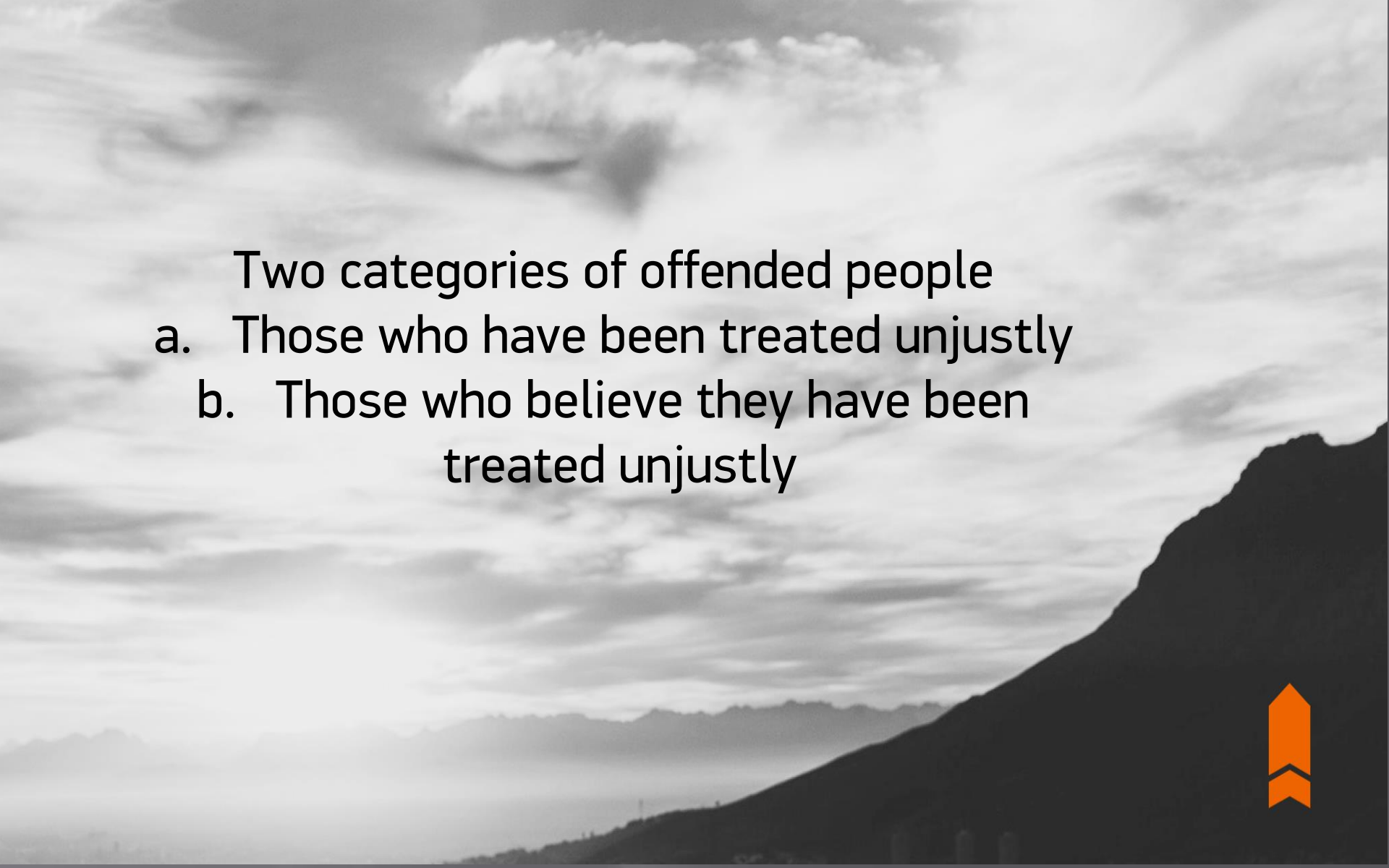


- *Walls around a city are for protection*
- *We build walls to safeguard our hearts from future hurts*
- *We withhold access until people have paid their debt in full.*



1. Offense is an event, offended is a decision



- 
- Two categories of offended people
- a. Those who have been treated unjustly
 - b. Those who believe they have been treated unjustly



Ephesians 4:32

*And be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also
has forgiven you.*



*Forgive everyone,
For everything,
All the time*



If I feel hurt by you, you are guilty! There is no defense; the hurt person becomes God. His/her emotions become judge and jury - truth does not matter. All that matters is the sovereign suffering of the aggrieved. It is above question!



2. All offenses (or ‘that offends us’) are not sin.



James 4:1

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?



Rom 12:18

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.



3. The bible actually directs us to action that may cause offense or conflict.



Christians must sometimes ...

- ‘convict’ (Jude 15)
- ‘rebuke’ (2 Tim. 4:2)
- ‘admonish’ (Rom. 15:14)
- ‘resist’ or ‘oppose’ (Gal 2:11)
- ‘solemnly charge’ (2 Tim. 2:14)
- ‘contend earnestly’ (Jude 3)
- ‘tell the person their fault’ (Matt 18)



4. The first step towards living unoffended is
humility



Ephesians 4:1-3

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.



James 3:16

*For where jealousy and **selfish ambition** exist,
there is disorder and every evil thing.*

James 4:1

*What is the source of quarrels and conflicts
among you? Is not the source **your pleasures**
that wage war in your members?*



2 Cor 5:15

*and He died for all, that they who live **should no longer live for themselves**, but **for Him** who died and rose again on their behalf.*



An offense (or conflict) provides an opportunity
to glorify God.

1. You can trust God (Prov. 3:5-7)
2. You can obey God (John 15:8)
3. You can imitate God (Eph. 5:1-2)



Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

