

OFFENSIVE SIN

Request: Can you think of an example of an OFFENSIVE SIN and how to deal with it scripturally?

An example of Offensive Sin is taught from the Life of Joseph in our lesson text. In this episode of the Life of Joseph, Joseph hid a silver cup in Benjamin's saddlebag and charged him with stealing. The brothers didn't know how it got there but they knew they were all innocent. This time their problem was not due to faulty thinking and decision making.

Apparently Joseph wanted to test his brothers to see if they had the same jealousy and resentment and malice towards his full brother as they had towards him. Therefore Joseph gave them an opportunity to save their own necks and get rid of Benjamin at the same time.

- How would they react to their innocence and unjust treatment?
- How would they respond to Benjamin's predicament?

Notice how they evaluated their innocence in this situation? Guilty though innocent because of a past OFFENSIVE SIN (Gen.44: 16).

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of this family dealing with an OFFENSIVE SIN.
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1. Judah speaking on behalf of all declared that even though they were innocent of this charge, they were guilty of another past unresolved Offensive Sin.

They internalized their present adversity with guilt of an unresolved past offensive sin. An offensive sin that occurred 23 years prior to this situation (Gen.37:2; 41:46).

The brothers believed that God was punishing them for an iniquity committed against Joseph 23 years ago.

Principle: Sometimes a past offensive sin committed by you or against you can affect a person's life for years or until it is dealt with Scripturally.

2. The offensive sin committed against Joseph was still plaguing their conscience 23 years later.

There is a mark contrast between Joseph and his brother's thinking regarding the offensive sin. Joseph had forgiven them and moved on with his life spiritually. The brothers still have it hanging over their heads. It is still an unfinished part of their lives and they are unable to fully move on spiritually in their lives. They are stuck in a 23 years old unresolved offensive sin in their lives.

They have probably confessed it several times as personal sin (1 John 1:9). But they have not been able to forgive themselves because they can't believe that God has really forgiven them – "as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Ps.103:12)

"Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him." (Rom.4: 7-8; Ps.31: 1-2)

YOU MUST BELIEVE WHAT THE SCRIPTURES TEACH!

3. They are stuck with a 23 years old offensive sin because they have attached it to an OMCD belief system rather than to a NMDV belief system like Joseph (Eph.4: 22-24).

This type of offensive sin becomes difficult to resolve properly when it involves intimate relationships. This is because it involves violation of sacred trust and relationship integrity (leaving, divorce, and such things).

- For the offended, it is difficult to accept that someone so close could do such a hurtful thing (Col.3:5-15).
- For the offender, it is difficult to accept that you could do something so hurtful to someone so close (Ps.66:18; Matt.18:21-35).

Both must come to understand that resolving the offensive sin can be a positive experience in spiritual growth maturity (Rom.8: 28, 35-38).

4. Unforgiving, resentful, bitter attitude toward the offender or by the offender can built scar-tissue on the soul and spiritually handicap believers.

This OMCD attitude can be transferred to other intimate relationships by callousness, insensitive, being distant, and protective from more hurt. It is now part of OMCD belief system and how we live our life. It becomes a smoldering coal in our soul. Smoldering coals mean that it will resurface under certain condition in our life.

23 years have passed since this offensive sin was committed against Joseph. It is still a smoldering coal in the brothers and now it has resurfaced through a guilty conscience.

5. This offensive sin is still part of both Joseph and his brothers lives but they relate to it differently.

- Joseph recalls it from NMDV thinking – forgiven.
- Brothers recall it from OMCD – unforgiven.

For Joseph, it opens a new and exciting chapter in his life because of NMDV.
For the brothers, it opens an old hurtful chapter of OMCD.

Both must learn to put off the offensive sin of the past and to put on forgiveness of the present and future (Eph.4: 22-24; Rom.12: 2). The brothers must learn to live in transformation like Joseph and not in reformation or conformation.

They must allow the living Word of God to pierce as far as the dividing of the soul and spirit, of the joints and marrow, and judge the thoughts and intentions of their heart (Heb.4: 12).