

## DEALING WITH OFFENSES

### **Matthew 18:15**

If someone offends you through words or actions, you are to go to them in private and deal with it. If the matter can be settled at this level there is no need to go any farther.

### **Matthew 5:23-24**

Broken relationships can be a hindrance to our relationship with God. In Judaism reconciliation between individuals was stressed. God would not (and Jesus also emphasizes) accept an outward offering until a reconciliation was made. God accepts offerings offered with a pure heart towards Him and others.

### **Matthew 18:21-35**

Jesus' statement of forgiving seventy x seven was a typical Jewish way of saying never hold grudges.  
To forgive is to treat it as though the offense was never committed – it will be buried and forgotten.

### **Matthew 6:14-15**

If we refuse to forgive others, Jesus will refuse to forgive us.

### **2 Corinthians 2:10-11**

Paul writing to the Corinthian church that the one who had wronged them by wronging Paul should be forgiven so that there would be no bitterness arise in the church or any of their ministry be affected because of it. If they didn't give forgiveness it would open a door for Satan to drive a wedge between the church and Paul.

### **Psalms 119:165**

Peace of mind can occur for those who love and follow God's instructions. When we follow God's ways nothing can offend or cause us to stumble.

### **John 13:35**

Jesus tells us that what identifies us as His disciples is the fact that we have love for one another. It is an attitude that reveals itself in action. The Old Testament reference for what Jesus was saying is in Leviticus 19:18. He added to it and made it new by adding "as I have loved you" (laying down one's life for others).

### **1 John 4:20-21**

The real test if we love God will be seen in how we treat others (especially fellow Christians). If we say we love God and go on hating a fellow believer, we are a liar.