

**THEME: SEVEN DEADLY CONTROLLERS**

**TOPIC: OFFENCE – WHAT IS AN OFFENCE?**

**TEXT: ROMANS 8:5-8, 14, MATTHEW 18:15-17, JAMES 1:19, PROVERBS 27:5-6**

### **Introduction**

Let's be reminded that Controllers are whatever controls you, and directs your actions and reactions to circumstances and situations in life. Whatever controls you has power over you.

The second of our consideration for the Seven Deadly Controllers is Offence and today we will be exploring "What is an Offence".

Offences can be very emotive, however controlling. People in offence could be very emotional about it and vow to not forgive or release the persons that got them in that state of mind.

### **WHAT IS AN OFFENCE?**

1. It is the act of causing anger, resentment, displeasure or affront. Whatever makes you upset, which the other person has done and it became such a foothold that you could not let it go.
2. Offence is another way to say, "A refusal to give forgiveness". Offence is a state of mind in which the people who offended you hurt your pride, make you unhappy, have not been released and you are unable to walk in love with them. (**Proverbs 18:19 & Romans 14:15**).
3. Offences are a violation or an infraction of a moral or social code. When people violate certain moral codes we have established or social codes we have agreed to. Joseph told the butler to not forget him. However, the butler did and though Joseph did not consider it an offence, the butler himself expressed the fact that he had offended someone (**Genesis 41:9**).
4. Offences are a transgression or a sin. It is exceeding the boundaries people want you to not exceed or coming into the territories which they have not permitted you into.
5. Offences may be in degrees. It may be over a minor matter or a matter so major that it could even spill over for generations, so that the same offence is passed on to members of the family.
6. An offence could be you attacking or assaulting the other person. An offence could be something that outrages moral sensibilities. In law, it is when people have broken the law or exceeded their boundaries. It is then called an offence.
7. Offence in relationships, it is when the conscious and unconscious boundaries people have drawn around themselves have been violated by those who came close.
8. It is most likely that the person who makes you walk in offence are people who are close to you. It is hard for a person who has no dealings with you to cause you to feel so offended (**Matthew 10:36**).

9. Offences are the feeling of resentment or emotional pain because while we have established that only close people can make you feel offended, yet you can have resentment or emotional pain because of national decisions, social decisions, ministerial decisions made in the local church, government, locality, associations you belong to, that makes you feel offended.
10. The act itself in any sense can result in being categorised as a crime, a sin, an affront or an injury. **Matthew 18:21 & 35**. The bottom line about offences is that they are the deeds of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21**). **Q:**

### **Q Why is Offence a sin?**

Once people are offended they become impolite and withdraw any regard they have for the person who has offended them. **1 Corinthians 10:32, 2 Corinthians 6:3**

Offences come because the offended feels that there has been an infringement on what they considered to be their right.

- a. A wife could feel offended because her husband gave undue attention to another woman.
- b. A husband could feel offended because his wife did not tell him that she was still talking to her old boyfriend.
- c. A child could feel offended because his parent put their foot down and said he could not have certain liberties, opportunities and benefits which he knows his friends elsewhere enjoy.
- d. People sometimes take offence at preachers if the message is not exactly what they expect but rather it is strong and demanding a repentance.

### **Conclusion**

When you feel hard done by others, you are likely to walk in offence. The person who did not greet you properly or those who slighted you, the one who talked to you the way you did not like or people who did not give you the regard you felt was due you.

To be offended is to hold a grudge and to hold a grudge is to walk in unforgiveness. To walk in unforgiveness is to stand in the danger of perishing. It exposes you to the demonic.

A sin may not be immediately the walking in offence, it is possibly so because of the reluctance of the offended to give forgiveness. Offences become stronger when the offended also refuse to be placated, rejects all appeasement and do not want to stand any entreaty.