

**THEME: SEVEN DEADLY CONTROLLERS**

**TOPIC: OFFENCE – WHY DO OFFENCES COME?**

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

### **Introduction**

Offences come because we form close friendships and relationships. It is ironical, you cannot live life as a solitary person, and you need other people. Therefore while you live on this earth and relate to people, they are likely to rub on you in the wrong direction or in the wrong way. They are likely to make you feel offended – **Luke 17:1**.

Today we will be further exploring our discussion on Offence by asking, “Why do offences come & what are the consequences of Offence”.

### **WHY DO OFFENCES COME?**

1. Offences come because we make no room for other people to make mistakes (errors or weaknesses). Those who walk in offence are themselves not perfect and yet are unable to realise that somebody is likely to offend them.
2. Offences come because instead of giving forgiveness the offended have the habit of reliving the incident that led to it over and over again. And every time this is done, it leads to the imagination feeding all others reasons.
3. The enemy of our souls takes advantage and makes us begin to believe that those who have offended us must hate us so much. How many great relationships have been destroyed because the offended allowed their imagination to run wild, assumed a lot, drew conclusions and accepted what the enemy suggested to them.
4. Assumption is the mother of mess up and it is very hard to not find assumption in most cases of offences. Playing the psychologist also ruins relationships. By this we mean, trying to guess what informs people’s action and therefore conclude based on your assumption and your conclusions. **1 Corinthians 13:7** TLB.
5. Offences are an indication that the offender has not let go because sometimes there may have been an immediate confrontation of matters.

### **WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCE OF OFFENCE?**

1. Walking in offence is a very controlling force which has led many people to seek revenge, become spiteful or seek to hurt the person who has offended them.
2. This very act of spite and the feeling of offence therefore means that the offended expose themselves to being eaten up on the inside. They do not seek to forgive, they seek to revenge and feel justified in their feelings unknown to them that he who refuses to forgive burns the bridge upon which he must travel one day.

3. Offence makes people to become hostile and sometimes the hostility is not only directed at the person who has offended them but everyone who walks past during the moment of the feeling of offence.
4. Offences repel people. In other words, the one who is walking in offence puts on mannerisms that closes channels of relationship and cuts others away from them.
5. Offended people can result to blackmail to hurt the people who have offended them.
6. Offence repels people. Offence can lead to bitterness, and bitterness is as terrible as the sin of witchcraft. **1 Samuel 15:23**. It destroys your own roots, eats into your system and poisons the future. **Hebrews 12:15**
7. Offences destroy relationships. Cain took offence because the offering of Abel was acceptable. **Genesis 4:3–5**.
8. Once you are in offence you do not build bridges, you destroy them. The person in offence does not increase his network with the ones he feels offended him. He stops it.
9. Offended people begin to stop their bowels of mercy and in effect stop acting and walking in the character of God.
10. Once you are in offence, your bowels of mercy is removed, and your desire is revenge. The offended pray for the destruction of the other person.
11. Offended people become harsh and severe and have no word of grace. Their communication becomes bitter. They become a poisoned river. They no longer flow with the water of life. **Ephesians 4:29**.

## Conclusion

This study is not an attempt to belittle or deny the fact that one may have been offended, neither does it downplay the hurt one feels. However to refuse to give forgiveness is to even increase the level of your personal violation. It is to poison your own attitude and cause displeasure with even those who were not involved in the matter.

Offence imprisons your spirit, hinders your worship because once your spirit is imprisoned, your prayer, praise, worship disposition is affected. You are primarily a spirit being, with a soul, living in a body and offence goes direct at your spirit.

What a tragedy it is to dwell on issues that have long been buried by the person about whom one takes offence. What a tragedy to carry emotional wounds just like physical wounds that would take a long time to heal.