



Oxygen of the Kingdom: How to Live Without Getting Offended

Greg Wendschlag May 19, 2024

So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Eph. 4:11-16

God’s Idea of Wholeness and Freedom: Love Him and love each other.

- Connection vs Separation
- Honesty and intimacy vs Self-promotion
- Vulnerability and authenticity vs Self-protection

Why I get offended: My personal beliefs or identity are threatened.

- I’m insecure and have negative self-esteem
- I’m wounded from the past
- I’m self-conscious
- I’m imperfect
- I’m not enough

How to live without getting offended

1. Know who you are: True Identity

*The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ **Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;** ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” Jn. 13:2-5*

2. It’s not about you: Be Humble

*Then he said to them all: Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves** and take up their cross daily and follow me.” Lk. 9:23*

***“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,** but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Gal 2:20*

3. Put yourself in the other person’s shoes: Be compassionate

*Be kind and **compassionate to one another**, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Eph. 4:32*

*Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, **be compassionate** and humble.” 1 Pet. 3:8*