

Christian, are you ready for no offence?

Base Lines:

Understanding the Will of God as stated in 1Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

The baseline may require you to dust off your understanding a bit so you can focus on what Jesus has done in/with you when you **Truly** – emphasis – **Truly** accepted His Gift of salvation. That the Will of God expressed in His Word; that he desires all men to be saved and know the truth, even should they chose to stay in darkness after understanding what it is they reject.

Information.

As I enter commentary within the scriptural references I will use **this color text** to set emphasis to the fact it is commentary. I will at times highlight scriptural text to emphasize it **using this color to do that**. Additionally, unless otherwise stated all Scriptural reference quotes are from the King James Version. Where other translations are used it is noted for clarity. Should you have issues with the colors I have chosen email me at seeker@godsprovision.org

Christian, are you ready for no offence?

Do you take offence easily when you walk among those who don't know Jesus as Lord? It's ok at first, many Christians do, it seems to be rooted at first in the desire to remain Holy once you have left off being nasty , without Jesus. It seems to have root in the fact that we hold on to some disdain for the sin involved with the lost. You should hate sin as expressed in evil a good scripture that expresses your relationship to evil is:

Psalms 97:10 **Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:** he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

As you may or may not realize I used that scripture because it suits the context of this letter to you. This letter will express to you a way to go out among those who would do things that shock you and offend you for the glory of God. To testify of God's goodness. Remember, don't pretend you have forty miles of faith when you only have four. Let this work in you and refresh your relationship with Jesus and then as the Holy Spirit secures the concepts contained here from the Word of God, begin to move as you are able. According to your faith, blessings. This

is a letter offering growth and rebirth not condemnation. What if we looked at a moment of offence as an opportunity to grow in Christ as opposed to a attack on our faith?

Revelation 12:9-11

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

This an example and a demonstration of the power of testimony of the goodness of God as Paul says it is the goodness of God that draws us into repentance.

Romans 2:4

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

After all Jesus said follow me and he often went in and ate among the publicans and sinners such as drunks and crooked tax collectors.

John 12:26

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Matthew 9:11

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

Mark 2:15

And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.

You see those two crews did many horrible things to people before they met Jesus and were changed. Now while we don't have any exact measure of how many tax collectors/publicans

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and winebibbers were saved as a result of Jesus' lack of offence in them and their ways, we do have exactly one Apostle that walked with Jesus who was changed by Jesus lack of offence in what people are and were.

Matthew 9:9

And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

Matthew 10:3

Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

You note that Jesus told Matthew to follow him even as he sat at customs. Also note that Matthew's Gospel calls himself a publican.

What if we decided to see people as Jesus sees them? Like how he saw Matthew for what he could be in Him as opposed to what everyone else saw in him. Wouldn't it be nice if we had a fresh revival of new times and new ways by Christians as Jesus walked instead of the offence many chose to take among the lost today?

Stop being offended, they don't oppose you or your faith by their unbelief and silliness they oppose themselves and Jesus trusts you to love them enough to testify His truth to them without offence. Are you listening? It is written:

2 Timothy 2:25

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Jesus the Creator not you.

Colossians 1:16

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Jesus alone is the judge, not us who judge without wisdom and respond with offence as opposed to meekness and Instruction. We who repay anger for anger and bad things for bad and take vengeance and protect ourselves further drive away the lost by our offence at the expense of God's Glory.

We as Christians can tell the difference between good and evil based on sound judgment as a gift of God, Holy Spirit but only Jesus can be offended by the lost unto Judgment because He created them and died for us on the cross. You have not earned the right to take offence of someone. Jesus himself isn't offended by evidenced by his crucifixion and offer of salvation to all men, even those who offend you. Are you better than your master?

John 5:22

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

1 Timothy 2:1-11

¶ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity. I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Matthew 10:24

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

Jesus is the Creator not you.

The more offence someone offers you the closer you should pull. Calling on the healing power of Christ to first fix you who is taking offence in flesh and forgetting we war in the Spirit and then provide a touch for you to be able to reach the "offender".

2 Corinthians 10:1-6

1 ¶ Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: 2 But I beseech you, that I may

not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

We talk of witness to the lost, some of our churches talk of numbers of exposures to Christians before lost folks accept Christ. I suggest to you that one touch of a Christian who is not offended by rejection and prays to Jesus for guidance at the moment of offence has sufficient means to bring in that harvest. It is the power of God that placed you two there for His Glory even if to plant a seed.

Is your church a place where the lost perchance can find Jesus or is it a place where they find condemnation. Is it a place where you worry about the resources the lost use from the store house? Is it a place where you decide who is worthy and who is not worthy based on your judgment as opposed to God who send them to you in the first place?

Is your money yours or is it God's to do with what he will for the kingdom? Are you afraid you may not have enough? Are you afraid that in doing good in the eyes of God may find you with no provision? Maybe, there is more broken in your relationship than that is visible at casual glance. Maybe, it would benefit you to check your foundations. This isn't a letter of condemnation but a letter of truth. Only you know where your relationship begins and ends in Jesus. I submit the following to you:

If your church finances are more about your building then the lost; that's not scriptural. For Jesus the ultimate head of the church had nowhere to lay his head. Fellowship can happen in the street among committed believers and ardent seekers of truth. I offer the sermon on the mount as example.

If your limit of provision to people after Jesus brings them to you is the level of offence you take in their actions, I would suggest that's not scriptural. They didn't meet you or your fellowship because they were perfect, but rather because God moved them to you so you could use His provision he has entrusted to you to show them his goodness.

What good does it do to bury and guard his provision to the point you are left with only that when he returns? To whom did he give more provision? To the fellows that used it and through that made some additional return for him. Not to the fellow that was so concerned he may use his provision incorrectly and therefore buried it under his thoughts and judgment of safety. Their offence of you is not part of the equation.

1. Do you trust God?
2. Do you trust God to be in control?
3. Do you trust God to handle those who would spitefully use you?
4. Do you trust God to defend what is His from the enemy?
5. Do you trust God to protect you as you follow him?
6. Does Jesus guide your steps every day every way ?
7. Does God draw men to Jesus?
8. Are you the living Glory of God through your testimony of helping; as he did, the undeserving?
9. Is anything you do a result of your goodness?
10. Is anything you have a result of your ability as opposed to God's goodness?
11. Is the lost person who would abuse that goodness any different than you abusing your Father's goodness except the fact that you have found a true love unconditional in Jesus Christ ?
12. Will you offer that lost person your unconditional Love of Jesus?
13. Is your covenant to love man between you and man or you and God?

Perhaps the reason you are having issue with this concept is because you make what is God's – yours. God's provision is a overflowing cup, a provision that increases as it is used, it is not dependent on your level of offence.

Perhaps it's about trust, maybe, you have by error learned to rely upon yourself rather than rely on Jesus?

Perhaps your walk has strayed from the first love a little more than you realized. When did it become about your ability to follow rather than his ability to draw? When did it become about your ability to manage rather than his ability to provide?

If your relationship in God is strong again everything you fear to be in error in disappears, trust him again and be blessed.

Maybe the love of money and concern for it and what it can do has trumped the Love of God.

John 12:32

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Even the ones that may offend you.

The power of Christ is continuous on us; it is not eked out in dribs and drips. We the offended must tap into that Living Water to overcome offence. It is up to you how offended you allow yourself to be to a lost person, it is not them. If you allow the lost to set the offence lines then you follow the lost and not Jesus. Do not allow yourself to be brought under the power of offence, it doesn't edify you or God. Rather, learn to see them as Jesus once saw you, a beloved child lost in sin without a Father to cry Abba to. Trust Jesus to show you how far you need to go for the lost, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

1 John 2:27

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1 Peter 3:8-17

¶ Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Matthew 5:39

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Luke 6:29

And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.

Matthew 5:43-48

¶ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

So will you or will you be so busy taking offence you forget your Father in heaven?

Luke 8:5-18

“A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock [are they], which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. **And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of [this] life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep [it], and bring forth fruit with patience.** No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a

vessel, or putteth [it] under a bed; but setteth [it] on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither [any thing] hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. **Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.**”

Don't be offended by druggies, prostitutes, abortionists, murderers, rapists as all can be overcome by Christ as can Co-workers, poor drivers, cell phone users, line cutters, smarty folks.

You have no right to take offence! Jesus reaches out for these people and he commands you “follow me” and if you love him you hear his voice and follow him. Suddenly you begin seeing them through His love. So how can you be so offended you can't stand to be around the lost? Is Jesus your Lord? Are you better than your Master?

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

And for them will you allow your offence level to be greater than God's or will you say yes Lord as Jesus did and suffer the offence for the lost's sake?

Is the devil able to stop your love by Cursing? Drinking? Music? Or by hollering at your God as an ignorant child does, not knowing the truth because people get too offended to stick around long enough to share it?

Romans 8:31-39

“What shall we then say to these things? If God [be] for us, who [can be] against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? [It is] God that justifieth. Who [is] he that condemneth? [It is] Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor

principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

No one can exercise such truth except that we allow Christ to be our Master and we rely upon His understanding and not our flesh polluted ideas. We fail at this continually. It is so easy to shut the Spirit out and allow your flesh the pleasure of worldly anger. To your flesh anger is fun.

Ephesians 4:29 and Ephesians 5:1-2

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1 ¶ Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

First you judge. Then you transfer the vengeance. Both tasks which belong only to God. Your flesh enjoys those things that you steal from God. It is such an easy mistake to make and justify.

John 5:22

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Romans 12:19

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Did you see what that guy did?...

Did you hear what she said?...

It was him/her they did this?...

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Satan feeds at these moments. He steals your joy and gives you offence.

The Spirit knows of no offence, God is merciful to whom he chooses to give mercy in equal measure.

You don't understand that...?

That doesn't swallow easy...?

Exodus 33:19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

That is OK

God does not require your understanding You require His.

He provides the instruction, via His Word. The example is Christ, in action. The means for us to understand this instruction, in the Holy Spirit. The power to put it in place, from HIM, the Great I Am!

So go read His Word, pray for understanding, accept His power, and when you falter, praise Him for his Grace which saves your very soul.

He loves you complete and wants you to succeed.

The next time you are offended by a lost person, stop. Realize that if you are offended you will not be able to give them the light of Jesus that God gave you and that is exactly what God wants you to do and the devil wants you to be offended not to do. God says Go forth and not to be offended and to share truth and peace to all who oppose themselves.

So who will you follow; Jesus your Lord or the Devil?

After all, is it about you and your sensibilities or Jesus?

Are you willing to let go of all God has given you only to have nowhere to lay your head or will you secure your belongings from God until they die in your arms.

Are you willing to trust God enough to help those who offend you?

Are you willing to trust God enough not to allow you to fall into their ways if you stick around long enough to show them Jesus?

Are you willing to love them, more than your life?

Jesus our example loved us that way.

Amen

Thank you Lord.

If you have any questions or issues feel free to email me. Seeker@godsprovision.org