

Bait of Satan Lesson 5

Lest We Offend Them

- Matthew 17:24-27 Peter and the Temple Tax. Jesus did not let his rights get in the way; he laid them down in order to not offend anyone.
- Galatians 5:13 “For you brethren have been called to liberty only do not use liberty for an opportunity for the flesh.”
- Slave vs servant. Slave mentality = I have to and therefore do the least. Servant mentality = I get to and do over and above. Bosses are always looking for servants, not slaves.
- There are weak Christians who are still bound to some thought patterns that others have been set free from. Just because one is set free does not make it ok to flaunt their freedom in front of the weaker one. You’re considering yourself more than you’re considering your brother who has weak faith. We will offend people when we speak the Word of God, but we shouldn’t due to our rights as Christians. We must lay our rights down for the sake (and eternity) of our brother.
- Whenever we insist on hanging on to rights or privileges at the expense of offending somebody, we cause that brother to sin. (1Cor 8:9-12)
- 1 Corinthians 10:22-23, 32-33 “All things are lawful to me, but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful to me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each other’s wellbeing.” “Therefore whether you eat or drink, whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to the Jew or the Gentile or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many that they may be saved.”

Forgiveness: You Don’t Give, You Don’t Get

- Though we live in a culture that typically devalues a person’s word, we can’t afford to do that when we hear God speak. God says what He means and means what He says – THE FIRST TIME.
- God makes conditional warnings “If...then...” you can guarantee that He will follow up on His end.
- Colossians 3:12-13 – should do or must do?
- You just don’t know what they did to me! What did we do to Jesus? He forgave us anyway! A person who cannot forgive is a person who has forgotten what Christ forgave him for. We committed the unpayable debt (sin). We can NEVER get into Heaven on our own, it is only through Jesus that we are forgiven and allowed entry.
- Matthew 18:21-22 – 70x7?? More is not a number, but a matter of the heart. It’s another one of those higher calling principles that God has called us to, the higher standard.
- Matthew 18:23+ The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant – estimated value 3 billion! (back in 2003!) 100 denarii = 1/3 year’s wages (\$15,000). Notice it says “wicked servant” not wicked heathen in verse 29. This guy has already been forgiven of the unpayable debt, yet because he does not forgive the other guy; he is sent to the torturers. He must be there until all is paid back – that’s an unpayable debt!

- We have categorized sins! Which is worst? Blasphemy? Proverbs 6 There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.
- What is the 7th? GOSSIP, sewing discord among the brethren. Why boycott homosexuals and not liars? There are 3x more scriptures on forgiving one another then there is on murder or adultery, yet we categorize those as worse.
- God can send us all to Hell and He would be totally just in doing so. We all ought to hang over Hell for 30 seconds (Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God) and then we would have no problem forgiving others. UNFORGIVENESS WILL SEND YOU TO HELL!!! There is nothing anyone can do to us that even compares to Hell. But yet that's what we deserve.
- A Christian who doesn't forgive, not those trying to work through it, but one who says I will not forgive him/her; it will cost them their salvation. Why do you scoff at that? Because we have categorized sin.
- Mark 11:25 – is God Father to the sinner? No He is God to the sinner, Father to the believer. Do sinners sit in church and pray? No, he is talking to children of God.
- The Bible says that when we are born again, He has shed abroad His love in our hearts and that is the love that forgave us of the unpayable debt. You have it in you, if you are saved, to forgive as He forgave you.