

# The POWER of FORGIVENESS—Lesson One

Springfield Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Kevin D. Sturdivant, Pastor

---

What does it mean to be offended? What is an offense? It is

\_\_\_\_\_.

Offense is \_\_\_\_\_. It is the chance the enemy uses to create a breach in your relationships. The enemy uses offense because he knows offense will happen. If people are looking for a way to be offended, they will find it. Jesus teaches us that offense will come. Examine: Luke 17:1. The word “offense” refers to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Just because you have been presented with the opportunity \_\_\_\_\_.

Here’s what to do when you have been offended.

1. \_\_\_\_\_. A prideful person is self-righteous. Examine: Prov. 8:13. Pride will keep you from admitting your heart’s true condition.
2. Ask God \_\_\_\_\_. You don’t know what’s in your own heart! Examine: Prov. 16:2; Prov. 21:2. Pride makes you view yourself as the \_\_\_\_\_. Two wrongs don’t make a right.
3. Ask God \_\_\_\_\_. A soft heart starts with prayer.

What does Jesus require from us in terms of offenses? Examine: Matthew 5:44-47.

1. Love your enemies. Jesus is teaching them to break the cycle of hatred.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ who hate you. Speak well of them and do things to cause them to be blessed.
3. Pray for those who spitefully use and persecute you.

Once we’ve accomplished these steps we become \_\_\_\_\_.