

The POWER of FORGIVENESS—Lesson Three

Springfield Baptist Church

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One of the main ways the enemy deceives us is by allowing us to be easily offended by _____ . Examine: Eph. 6:11. The wiles of the devil are the clever schemes the enemy uses to offend us, ensnare us and tempt us. Examine: Eph. 4:11 & 12. If you fall for this trick of the enemy you will _____ .

How to avoid the trap of offense with your spiritual leadership.

1. Avoid deifying your spiritual leaders. Examine: Acts 4:8-13. Your spiritual leader is _____ . Your leaders are ordinary people with an extraordinary calling and supernatural anointing.
2. Don't hold your leaders to a standard _____ . Examine: Matt. 7:1&2. This doesn't mean leaders should have no standards, morals or goals. Avoid false expectations. Examine: Heb. 13:7.

Remember church is not about _____ !
The enemy will magnify every fault, flaw or line of personal preference to make you feel like you can't receive from your spiritual leader.

Examine: Proverbs 26:20. Bringing wood to a dying fire allows us to warm in the glow of the chaos we created. God is not pleased.

Jesus talks about growth. Examine: John 15:5&6; Mark 4:1-20. Let's examine some features of the parable of the sower. Jesus takes time to explain what the disciples didn't understand. Who sows the Word in your life? _____. It's natural for an audience to critique the preacher, but here Jesus critiques the audience.

The seed falls on four different types of soil.

1. The pathway. It's so hard the seed can't penetrate the ground. Satan comes to snatch the word before it enters the soil of your heart.
2. _____. The problem is there's no root. The stony ground hearer is easily offended. (v.14)
3. _____. Notice, things grow in thorny ground, but the growth is _____ .
4. Only good soil produces fruit. Examine: Psalm 1:1-3. Do you want to grow?

What if I can't receive the Word from my pastor? _____ .
_____. If you're growing where you are _____ .