

THAT OFFENDS ME
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3/16/26

This phrase, "That offends me," is a tool Satan is using to squash the Good News and keep it from being spoken to challenge certain lifestyles. The word offend is defined as: to cause a person or group to feel hurt, angry, or upset by something said or done.

I spoke with a former co-worker this week and was told of a conversation between them and an individual who asked the question, "Does your church support same sex marriages?" The co-worker said no. There was a little more conversation, and then the co-worker went on about their work. When the co-worker returned to the office they were called in by the supervisor, who stated that they had received a call from someone who had overheard that conversation about same sex marriage and they were offended. The co-worker was told they had the rest of the week off without pay because the company's values were not followed. What has happened to the freedom of speech we are supposed to have? It seems nowadays that only applies when you say something that aligns with others who do not want to hear about what the Bible says about what they're doing.

The Bible warns us about this. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

There are religions today that kill people who do not believe the same as they do. We have seen and heard of this in the middle east numerous times, and not only there, but also in Africa. Christians in the United States are not killed, but their voices are silenced, another way of killing people who do not believe the same or who speak out about issues like abortion, trans-gender and homosexuality. The Bible says this, ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷ and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error." (Romans 1:18-27)

Christians must share the Biblical beliefs in a loving way. You love the person just like God does. However, you hate the sin in their life just as you hate the sin in your life. As a Christian you must not hate anyone. ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, 'You shall

love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:38-39) “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” (Matthew 5:44)

It's plain to see the one sidedness against Christians in the world today. People who speak out against Christianity can say whatever they want and it's not a problem, but if a Christian says anything that is in opposition to the worldly actions they are shut up by whatever means it takes. This is nothing new. Satan has tried to stop the Christian voice since the first century. Today he is using intimidation and fear. Satan uses bullying, threats, and eternal opposition to make Christians afraid to share their faith or stand for the truth. Satan manipulates public perception and uses official channels to enforce injustice, pressuring believers to retreat from their mission. Another way Satan uses is attacking leadership and families. Church leaders are targeted, marriages and families attacked, volunteer staff members burnt out and discouraged, knowing that if leadership falls, the church becomes vulnerable. This is why it's so critical for those in leadership of any ministry area to be on guard against Satan's schemes.

Jesus warned the Apostles about hatred from the world. “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.” (Matthew 24:9) Is this not happening in the world today? Yes, it is. Christians must hang in there. Here is why. “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12)

My fellow Christians, we have the obligation given to us by our Heavenly Father to tell others the “good news.” We must not let the world stop us. We must use our love for Jesus to motivate us to tell others of the saving grace found only in God and the eternal home He has for those who accept His Son as Lord and Savior. Also, we have the responsibility to tell others of the eternal home in hell that awaits them because of their unbelief. There are many scriptures that bring joy and happiness to us. However, there is one that is so sad: “and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.” (Revelation (9:21) Shout Jesus from the roof tops. Have a blessed week.

Unashamed:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhwWzVePf0c&list=RDbhwWzVePf0c&start_radio=1