

March 1, 2026



# Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

*Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting*

## FABC Elders

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## Announcements

### Home Fellowships

We're having Home Fellowships tonight, **March 1!** Lists of who is going where are on pages 6 and 7. If you do not find your name, choose any one of the four homes to visit. Hosts, you provide drinks and paper products. Guests, bring snacks!

### Elders' Meeting

Tuesday, **March 3**, 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday Night

This Wednesday, we'll have Pork Chops for supper at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club at 6:20, Youth at 6:30, and Bible Study at 6:45. Sign up in the hall for suppers!

### Ghost Pirates Hockey Game

Shawn Champion is organizing a group for the Savannah Ghost Pirates hockey game on Friday, **March 13**. Sign the sheet in the hall by **today, March 1**, if you'd like to go! Tickets are \$25 each. Talk to Shawn if you have any questions.

### Crochet Club

Bring your project and questions to the Youth House on Saturday, **March 7**, at 10:00 a.m. This is open to anyone who likes to enjoy fellowship when they crochet, who wants to learn how, or who wants to help others expand their skills.

*Continued on p. 4*

# Welcome

Visitors, thank you for worshipping with us today! We'd love to learn more about you. Please get further connected to our church by scanning the QR code to the right and filling out the contact card. While you're there, check out the rest of our website!



March 1, 2026

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Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 5:11

*Pew Bible p. 449*

Prayer of Praise

Greeting

*(When singing begins, please make your way to your seats and sing along!)*

*I'm so glad I'm a part of the fam'ly of God;  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the fam'ly, the fam'ly of God.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Hymn #34, bulletin p. 8**

*"Immortal, Invisible"*

Prayer of General Confession

Steve Posner

*Joel 2:12-13*

*Pew Bible p. 761*

**Hymn #333, bulletin p. 9**

*"May the Mind of Christ, My Savior"*

Scripture Reading

Romans 13:1-7

Bobby DeLoach

*Pew Bible p. 948*

**Hymn #209, bulletin p. 10**

*"He Will Hold Me Fast"*

Message

Bob Dimmitt

*Stages Two & Three*

*Matthew #121*

*Matthew 18:15-17, Pew Bible p. 823*

**Hymn, bulletin pp. 11-12**

*"Benediction"*

# A.M. Notes

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## Stages Two & Three

Matthew #121

Matthew 18:15-17

Listens to you implies a face-to-face encounter

So, what do you do if he doesn't listen?

Jesus invokes the OT principal Deuteronomy 19:15-16

Taking 2 or 3 is never to be with the intent of *ganging up* on the person, the one being confronted needs to be reassured the goal is restoration, repentance and reconciliation not condemnation.

Note that no list of sins requiring this step is given. So what sins are we talking about?

Why are we to tell the church?

Refuses to listen indicates a deliberate act

Review: Stage one – one on one confrontation

Stage two – take others with and confront again

Stage three – tell the church

The church being told eliminates gossip.

The body, being made aware of this situation, is to move to action:

- Specific prayer-for the offender, victims, and wisdom
- Perhaps there is more information to be had, this gives the body time to bring more info to the elders to help deal with the situation.
- More loving confrontation brought by other church members who may be close to the ones involved. *And if he refuses to listen even to the church*
- The period of grace continues to be lengthened giving time for the offender to repent.

*Continued from p. 1*

### **Old Savannah City Mission**

Tom is serving lunch at the OSCM on Saturday, **March 7**. The Wises and Tarvers are scheduled to help. Let Tom know if you can help, too!

### **Daylight Savings Time Begins!**

Set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on Saturday, **March 7**.

### **Ladies' Night Out**

Amy Keller has organized a Ladies' Night Out on Thursday, **March 12**. She has reserved a private space at the Sakura Buffet on Eisenhower Drive. Sign the list in the hall and meet at the restaurant at 5:30 p.m.!

### **Family Breakfast**

One of our goals at FABC is to build stronger families and see them flourish spiritually. Last year was the first in what is becoming an annual family breakfast seminar. Last year we covered the importance and practical aspects of how to conduct Family Worship. This year we will cover the importance and practical aspects of Family Discipleship. You will learn practical ways to integrate faith into daily family life and discover effective communication strategies for discussing spiritual topics. So plan on joining us for breakfast and an insightful time Saturday morning, **March 14**, at 8:00 a.m. Sign up in the hall!

### **Missionary Visit & After Church Fellowship**

Ralph and Elaine Elliott will be with us in our Evening Worship on Sunday, **March 15**, to share the latest concerning their ministry in Belgium with Cru. The service will be followed by an After Church Fellowship! Bring snacks to share.

### **Family Easter Event!**

Please register online for this event as soon as possible! Invite folks you know to participate as well! Use the QR code below, or go to [fabchurch.com](http://fabchurch.com) and click the link under the Welcome graphics to register! There is also a link on our website.



*Family Easter  
Event*

Saturday, March 28

11:30 to 1:30  
Fellowship Hall  
Inflatables, lunch,  
games, egg hunts,  
and crafts!  
**FREE EVENT!**



*This event is designed for toddlers through sixth graders! Please use the QR code to go to the event page and register. Call the office if you have any trouble registering.*

# Important Upcoming Events



## March:

1	Home Fellowships	6:00 p.m.
3	Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
7	Lunch at Old Savannah City Mission: Charles & Cindy Wise, Everett & Mary Ann Tarver	11:00 a.m.
<b>8</b>	<b>Daylight Savings Time begins (Spring Forward)</b>	
10	Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
12	WOL Ladies' Night Out: Sakura Buffet	5:30 p.m.
13	Ghost Pirates Hockey Game	7:00 p.m.
14	Family Breakfast: Family Discipleship	8:00 a.m.
15	Evening Worship with Ralph & Elaine Elliott	6:00 p.m.
15	After Church Fellowship	7:00 p.m.
17	Senior Saints' Lunch: Carrabba's	11:00 a.m.
<b>28</b>	<b>Family Easter Event (See page 4!)</b>	<b>11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.</b>
29	Easter Cantata	6:00 p.m.

## April:

3	Good Friday Service	7:00 p.m.
4	Lunch at Old Savannah City Mission: Youth & Young Adults	11:00 a.m.
5	Easter Breakfast	8:45 a.m.
5	Easter Morning Worship with Communion	10:00 a.m.
7	Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
14	Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
24-25	Women of Light Spring Conference	TBA
26	Quarterly Members' Meeting	TBA

## Save these dates:

<b>D-3 Camp:</b>	<b>June 13 through 19</b>
<b>VBS:</b>	<b>June 22 through 26</b>
<b>Children's Camp:</b>	<b>July 27 through 30</b>



*We are so grateful for our church. We are so thankful for the "Team" that helped organize the Valentine's Day luncheon. We are also thankful for Emily's team that delivered balloons and treats to us the following week. We are so blessed and feel so loved by our church family. It is such a help for those of us who have lost husbands, wives, and other significant friends and family. Thank you for loving us in Christ so well.*

*Your Seniors Saints*

**Eleanor Bowden**  
**613 Early Street**

*Tom & Amy Keller*

Pam Anderson  
Carol Armstrong  
Bill & Sona Bailey  
John Earl & Carolyn Blanton  
Moonyeen Blanton  
Kelvin & Jan Boyett  
Jimmy & Janice Donaldson  
Lance & Julie Ficek  
Ron & Mary Ann Fowler  
Tony Gadsby  
Jeanie Groover  
Darrell & Becky Hendricks  
Ari Hidalgo  
John & Pam Humphrey  
Rebecca Keller  
Logan & Stacey Kelly  
Bucky & Eleanor Lanier  
Samp & Beth Lewis  
David Martin  
Richard Mills  
Tim & Laura Moore  
Melvin Myers  
Barbara Nix  
Vern Nix  
Paul & Jamie Ray  
Kevin & Wesley Rhodes  
Jim & Heather Schraeder  
Jonathan & Jenna Torres  
Dean & Patricia Wedincamp  
Kevin & Lilly Zeigler  
Ric & Kelly Zittrouer  
Sam Zittrouer

**June Erlandson**  
**1310 Beckman Avenue**

*Bob & Cindy Dimmitt*

Gary & Patricia Beatty  
Sylvia Blue  
John & Carol Boaen  
Shawn Champion  
Sonja Clements  
Emmett & Katherine Copeland  
Jessica Dimmitt  
Marc & Melinda Dunant  
Rudy & Kayla Duero  
Julia Fields  
Jerry Fields  
Brittany Hall  
Geri Hendrix  
Robert & Jill Holland  
Alden Horton  
Lily Horton  
Napoleon & Savannah Martin  
Barbara Mason  
Ricky & Sarah Miller  
Dennis Morgan  
Cole Morris  
Annita Parmelee  
Margy Parmelee  
Fidel & Gabie Padilla  
Barbara Rahn  
Clyde & Ceci Sheffield  
Kay Stanford  
Kelly & Dawn Stanford  
Claude & Susan Su  
Constance Vereen  
Daniel Wedincamp  
Teena Wheless

**Howard & Lynn Ernst**  
**320-B Sullivan Drive**

*Steve & Linnea Posner*

Nick & Rachel Beatty  
John & Sandra Bridges  
Dennis Brittingham  
Reggie & Leasa Brown  
Jan Deloach  
Danny & Janet Edwards  
Joyce English  
Kim Eriksen  
Ralph & Deborah Focht  
Caleb & Anna Gilmore  
Jerramie & Rebekah Helmick  
Genevieve Hassan  
Hillaire Hopkins  
Eric & Amy Horton  
Glynn & Natalie Horton  
Todd Klann  
Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter  
Wally & Karen Law  
Travis & Ginna MacMillan  
Austin Mastison  
Sarah Mastison  
Dan & Leslie Mayle  
Jack & Connie Moore  
Taylor & Courtney Pelton  
Bruce Rahn  
Alysa Rodriguez  
Jay & Tamera Smith  
Everett & Mary Ann Tarver  
Jay & Andrea Turner  
Mark Usher  
Michael & Karrie Walker  
John & Diana Watkins

**Mike & Elinor Morris**  
**392 Hunt Drive**

*Glen & Donna Martin*

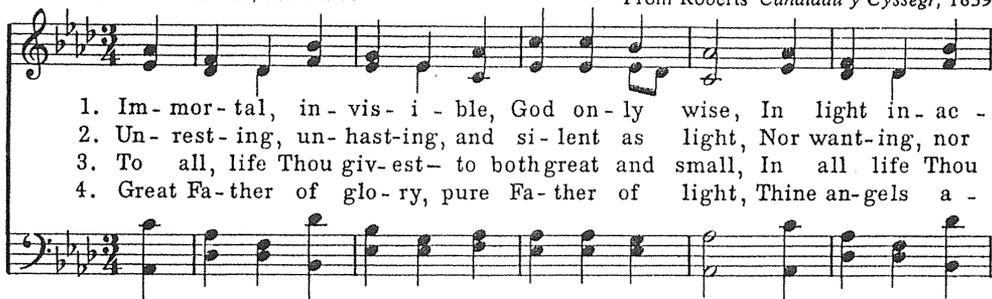
Aileen Bloodworth  
Sharon Boaen  
Pat Briley  
Jim & Rita Campbell  
Sue Crews  
Bobby & Avalon Deloach  
Gordon & Debra Denney  
Mike Edwards  
David Grimes  
Dustin & Emily Herb  
Bryan & Kelly Howard  
Chris Howell  
Charles Hurndon  
Wan & Myri Hymon  
Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter  
Jay & Kaitlyn Kirkland  
Carter Kleinpeter  
Daniel & Marsha Lockett  
Dean McCraw  
Joseph McCraw  
Billy & Suzan Morris  
Joe & Patricia Morris  
Marie Portenga  
Danny & Kamee Roberson  
Jay & Lisa Rowe  
Gena Russell  
Elaine Spica  
Kelvin & Janice Stanford  
Mason Turner  
Billy & Brenda Waters  
Charles & Cindy Wise

## Immortal, Invisible

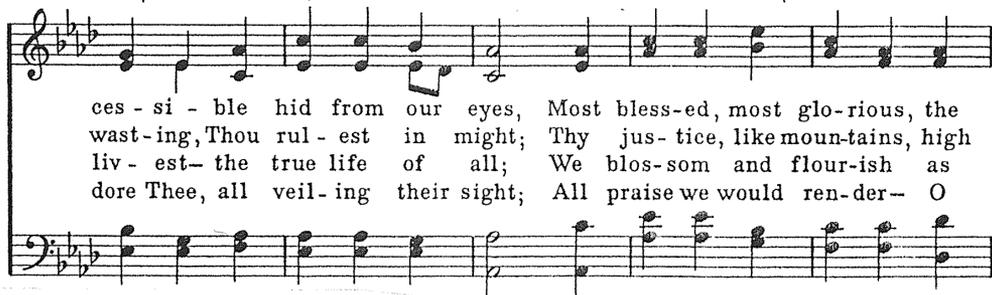
WALTER CHALMERS SMITH, 1824-1908

ST. DENIO

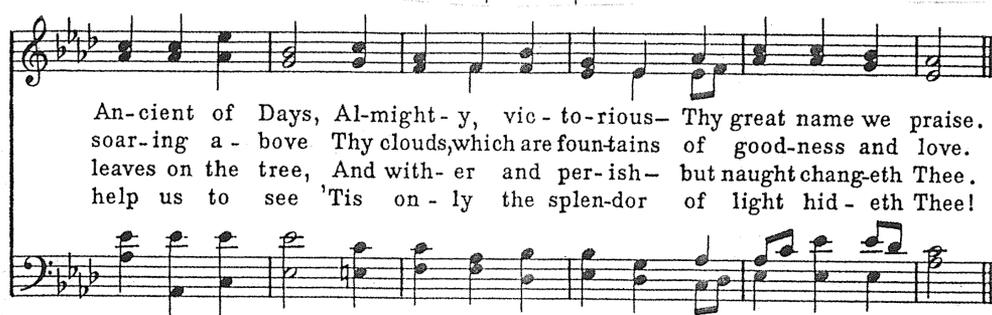
Welsh melody

From Roberts' *Canaidau y Cyssegr*, 1839


1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, In light in - ac -  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, Nor want - ing, nor  
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est - to both great and small, In all life Thou  
 4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, Thine an - gels a -



ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the  
 wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might; Thy jus - tice, like moun - tains, high  
 liv - est - the true life of all; We blos - som and flour - ish as  
 dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight; All praise we would ren - der - O



An - cient of Days, Al - might - y, vic - to - rious - Thy great name we praise.  
 soar - ing a - bove Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 leaves on the tree, And with - er and per - ish - but naught chang - eth Thee.  
 help us to see 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

# May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

KATE B. WILKINSON, 1859-1928

ST. LEONARDS

A. CYRIL BARHAM-GOULD, 1891-1953

1. May the mind of Christ, my Sav-ior, Live in me from day to day,  
 2. May the Word of God dwell rich-ly In my heart from hour to hour,  
 3. May the peace of God, my Fa-ther, Rule my life in ev-'ry-thing,  
 4. May the love of Je-sus fill me, As the wa-ters fill the sea;  
 5. May I run the race be-fore me, Strong and brave to face the foe,  
 6. May His beau-ty rest up-on me As I seek the lost to win,

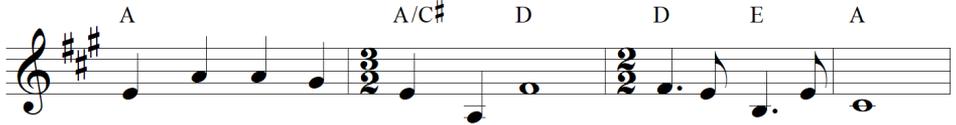
By His love and pow'r con-trol-ling All I do and say.  
 So that all may see I tri-umph On-ly thru His pow'r.  
 That I may be calm to com-fort Sick and sor-row-ing.  
 Him ex-alt-ing, self a-bas-ing- This is vic-to-ry.  
 Look-ing on-ly un-to Je-sus As I on-ward go.  
 And may they for-get the chan-nel, See-ing on-ly Him.

# He Will Hold Me Fast

Words and Music  
Ada Habershon and Matthew Merker



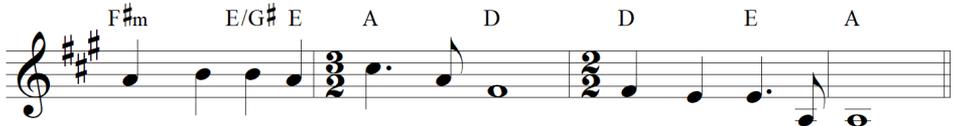
1. When I fear my faith will fail. Christ will hold me fast;  
2. Those He saves are His de-light. Christ will hold me fast;  
3. For my life He bled and died. Christ will hold me fast;



When the tempt-er would pre-vail. He will hold me fast.  
Pre-cious in His ho-ly sight. He will hold me fast.  
Jus-tice has been sat-is-fied; He will hold me fast.



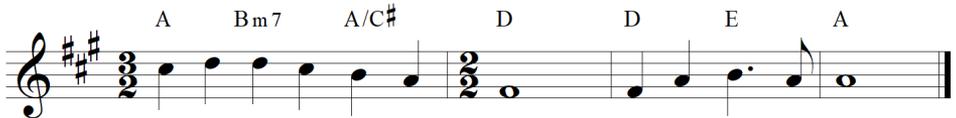
I could nev-er keep my hold Through life's fear-ful path;  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His prom-is-es shall last;  
Raised with Him to end-less life. He will hold me fast



For my love is of-ten cold; He must hold me fast.  
Bought by Him at such a cost. He will hold me fast.  
'Till our faith is turned to sight. When He comes at last!



He will hold me fast. He will hold me fast;



For my Sav-ior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

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# Benediction

Stuart Townend &  
Keith Getty

F/A      B $\flat$       B $\flat$ /D      E $\flat$       B $\flat$

1. May the peace of God our heav - 'nly Fa - ther,  
2. May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,

Gm7      Cm7      F sus      F

and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,  
and this grace which makes us what we are,

F/A      B $\flat$       B $\flat$ /D      E $\flat$       B $\flat$

and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it  
and this fel - low - ship of His com - mun - ion

Gm7      Cm7      F sus      F

keep our hearts and minds with - in His love.  
make us one in spir - it and in heart.

CCLI Song # 4506980  
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## Benediction, p. 2

B $\flat$ /D
F
Gm7
F/A
F
E $\flat$ /G
E $\flat$ 
B $\flat$

And to Him be praise for His glo - rious reign,

B $\flat$ /D
F
Gm7
F/A
F
E $\flat$ /G
E $\flat$ 
B $\flat$

from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.

F
Gm7
F/A
D/F $\sharp$ 
Gm
F6
E $\flat$

We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain:

B $\flat$ /F
F sus
F
B $\flat$  sus
B $\flat$

Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings!

# Articles

## Are You Offended?

By Angie Taylor

Are you offended? In today's day and age, I bet there is a good chance you are. I'm going to blame social media for the influx of unique and individual **expressions of offense** in our current culture.

What does the bible say about being offended?

*Did you know that Jesus warns us about feeling offended?* That's because **offense is not good for us.**

The dictionary defines the word "offended" as a verb meaning, "to cause to feel upset, annoyed, or resentful" or "To feel displeased."

The word "feel" is key here. But what is the thought that occurs before the feeling? And what is the behavior exhibited after the feeling?

What I have found in my work with people is that generally:

**What I think, leads to an emotion (What I feel).**

**What I feel, leads to a bodily sensation (Where I feel).**

**Where I feel, leads to a behavior (What I do/What I don't do).**

**What I do/What I don't do leads to a cognition (What I think).**

And the cycle repeats. This cycle can be negative or positive! It's just how we are wired.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus brings up the topic of *offense*... a word that we will dig into more deeply in order to help you answer the question, "Am I offended?"

**Here are a few places where we see this word pop up (I would encourage you to read the context around these verses to gain more perspective regarding what is taking place):**

*"...offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!"* (Luke 17:1, KJV)

*"And blessed is the one who is not **offended** by me."* (Matthew 11:6, ESV)

*"Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, 'Does this **offend** you?'"* (John 6:61, NIV)

In all of these examples, the word "offense" in Greek is "*skandalon*" which means: "*the movable stick or trigger of a trap, a trap stick, a snare.*"

This is hunting language! The Bible likens the enemy to a prowling lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Acting out of offense produces an "aroma" of sorts, and this scent makes the hunting easier for the powers of darkness. **Being offended is a behavior that we cannot afford to allow into our day to day life!** When we choose to take offense, we are missing the mark, missing God's intended best for us in that moment; it is not good for us and can lead us to feel trapped.

To add another interesting layer... at its root, the word *skandalon* is *kampto* which means: "*to bend, to bow, as in worship.*"

What is taking God's position in our hearts when we choose to focus on what offends us, more than we focus on His presence? I've heard it said that an idol is "anything we check in with before we go to the Lord." Offense can become a strange idol in our lives.

How do you know if you're offended?

Here are my main points and some connections for all of these dots...

Feeling offended is, without a doubt... a choice. Therefore, not taking offense is also a choice and a liberating one!

Feeling offended without doing anything with the emotions tied to that feeling is not only unhelpful but can be extremely dangerous.

Offended people get caught in a snare, or a trap that can cause them to feel like they are victims and therefore adopt a victim mentality that can cause them to feel stuck and ensnared. They begin to believe the crippling thought that the enemy and his lies are more powerful than they are.

"Stuck people" tend to turn to unhealthy escape mechanisms (i.e. porn, gambling, raging, over-eating, excessive drinking, gossip, excessive media consumption, over-exercising, etc...) that eventually lead to addictions that are very difficult to break. The natural consequences of these behaviors exacerbate shame and the feeling of being "stuck" or trapped.

At its root, feeling offended is a choice to place something in worship above God. "Worship" simply means, "to ascribe worth to something." In other words, when I am offended, I am bowing down and idolizing the thing with which I am offended, or what I believe is the appropriate response to the thing causing the offense. In my heart and mind, I am inappropriately assigning worth to something that is less worthy than God. I am spending more time in the presence of my offense, than in the presence of my Father.

How do you know if you're offended? Feelings such as: *upset, indignant, annoyed, displeased, etc...* are okay, as long as they are brief and we choose to do something constructive with them... to put them into action. As Ephesians says, *Be angry... but in your anger, do not sin* (4:26). What you may **actually** and more accurately be feeling, when you are tempted to choose "offense" are these softer, powerful emotions:

Hurt. Sadness. Compassion.

Compassion might say, "Wow, I am so upset/outraged/angry about \_\_\_\_\_. I can't believe that person/people group/organization is being treated that way. My heart hurts for them, and I want to do something about it."

Compassion takes thoughts and feelings and turns them into **CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION**. Compassion makes a donation, signs a petition, volunteers time, serves the least of these, helps with chores, listens and empathizes with stories, etc.

When we simply whine or complain in response to our feelings of offense, it is unhelpful. A group discussion with like-minded, offended people is often not constructive, but instead destructive and unbalanced... although it may feel "good" or "comforting" at the moment. Instead, please, join me in deciding to increase our awareness about what we're feeling and turning it into compassionate action! ❖

# Becoming Unoffendable

By Don Oates

**Philippians 2:4** *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.*

We all struggle with the reality of valuing others as more important than ourselves, and one way that it shows up is the ease with which we are offended.

*The taking of offense—or feeling offended—often involves an experience of negative emotions caused by a word or an action which is in conflict with what we might expect and believe to be the right, appropriate, moral, acceptable (and biblical) behavior.*

The more time I spend walking with Jesus, in prayer, in the Word, with other believers, and just being with Him, the more convicted I am about the ease with which I judge others.

In the parable of *The Unmerciful Servant* in Matthew 18, Jesus tells the story of a servant (me) being forgiven a massive debt by his master (Jesus), and then going out and demanding repayment of a tiny debt from a fellow servant (that is me being offended by a fellow believer).

This parable teaches that there is nothing that anyone can do or say to me that is worse than my sin before the Savior. If my sin toward Jesus is always worse than their sin to me, then I really cannot be offended, or judge harshly, or ascribe wrong motives to the actions of others.

If I truly believe that I have been rescued from a place far, far from God; if I truly believe that my sin was as scarlet and that the blood of Jesus has washed me white as snow, and if I truly believe that all sin is equal, that yours is not worse than mine, then I would be like the one for whom MUCH has been forgiven. I would forever see my life as belonging to the one who rescued me and I would be unable to find offense in the words and deeds of others.

Offense taken and not dealt with brings a great danger of a slide into to a heart of bitterness. A bitter heart can destroy relationships and ministry, along with the faith and walk of the one holding the offence.

*See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.* Hebrews 12:15

In humility, though, I must be cautious not to offend you and then demand that you not be offended! Loving our brothers and sisters as Christ loved us is a sacrificial lifestyle. There will always be weaker brothers, who are easily offended, but they are still part of the body and still in need of being cared for “*as being more important than ourselves*”.

I am always surprised by the extra grace that we show someone when we find out that they are in the middle of a very difficult season, or that they have suffered a loss. Why are we not able to show that Grace from the start?

Americans especially have a sense of entitlement to being treated well by store clerks and others in the service industry. We are incensed when we are treated with rudeness or indifference. But when dealing with un-believing, non Christ following people, why do we expect or insist on Holy Spirit behavior? We are offended even by un-believers!

What an opportunity to show the Mind of Christ both to the believers around us and to the un-saved world around us.

I shared these thoughts in a church recently and had one older man come up to me after to say that he was offended by what I had shared and taught. At first, I thought that he was joking with me, but as he got more and more intense, I realized that he was serious. I sighed heavily in my heart and thought of how much he was missing in the blessings of following Christ.

I know that I personally talk about this concept of Unoffendability, but I find myself struggling just as anyone else. Maybe that is why it has become so important to me. I find the final verse in this passage to be the one that strikes fear in my own heart. Jesus says, "*This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart*".

When Jesus says that we are to love one another, to wash each other's feet, to count others as more important than ourselves, to serve each other as he served us, there seems to be very little room for self. Jesus bids us come and die. To self. I believe that a huge step in that direction is to learn the lessons of The Unmerciful Servant.

We can do so much good and effective work for the Kingdom of God with humble, grateful, and un-offendable hearts, so let us extend grace upon grace to the brothers and sisters and the un-believers around us this week. ❖

## Love Doesn't Trump God's Moral Commands

By Amy Hall

Ms Rachel, a YouTuber who posts learning videos for toddlers, made waves this week when she posted a video celebrating Pride Month on TikTok. After receiving some backlash, she explained her position this way:

My faith is really important to me, and it's also one reason why I love every neighbor. In Matthew 22, a religious teacher asked Jesus, "What's the most important commandment?" And Jesus says to love God *and* to love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. There's no greater commandments than these. I believe it's mentioned eight times: Love your neighbor.

So, yes, everyone belongs, everyone's welcome, everyone is treated with empathy and respect. It doesn't say, "Love every neighbor *except*..." There are so many reasons I stand strong in love. I stand with everyone. That's who I am.

**It's not unusual for people to cite the second great commandment as if it trumps God's other moral commands:** "See? What God wants most is for us to love. That's what's most important, so that's all we should worry about." But this is simply a misreading of the text.

When Jesus said, "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets," he didn't mean that love for God and neighbor should somehow trump

the Law and the Prophets: he meant the Law and the Prophets exist for the very purpose of teaching us what love for God and neighbor looks like.

Consider these two passages that state this plainly:

*Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. (2 John 6)*

*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. (1 John 5:2)*

Sometimes what Paul says in Romans 13:8 is used to support the idea that love trumps God's commands: "*He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.*" Again, this is interpreted to mean that we don't need to worry about all of God's outdated moral commands—all we need to do is to love others. But listen to the passage in its context:

*He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this [i.e., for love], "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (Rom 13:8-10)*

It is for *love* that we follow the commandments! The commandments are there for the very purpose of prohibiting the things that "do wrong to a neighbor" and promoting the things that do right. **This means that true love is defined for us by God's commandments.** It's a false love that redefines what is good and bad for our neighbor apart from God's revelation of his moral laws.

The reason for the confusion about this among Christians comes down to an equivocation on the word "love." Too many Christians have been catechized into our culture's understanding of love, and they've simply absorbed the new definition without realizing it. Love 2.0 now means acceptance and celebration, and if one of God's moral laws seems to oppose acceptance and celebration, then obviously the second great commandment to love-2.0 your neighbor should trump that law. In other words, now love 2.0 trumps actual love.

**The sad truth is that anyone who rejects God's moral commands in order to love has missed love altogether. Love doesn't trump God's commands; it's defined by them. ❖**

# Missionary of the Week

David & Natalie Holsten  
MAF - Nampa, Idaho

## Kalimantan Trip Part Two

Binuang is one of many villages in Kalimantan, Indonesia, long served by the MAF plane. When we lived there, David flew to Binuang hundreds of times, flying medical patients, cargo, pastors, and students.

So it was such a treat to return to Binuang during our trip last fall with the re-sourcing team from MAF headquarters. Nearly the whole village came out to greet us when we landed, gifting us traditional bark vests and necklaces made from seeds.

The people of Binuang just recently received the gospel of Luke in their heart language, Lengilo'. We talked at length with village elders and local Bible translators and heard stories of how MAF supported their community and the translation efforts.

At a church service, boxes of the recently finished gospel of Luke were dedicated and given to people from surrounding villages who had yet to receive their copies. Another impactful part of our trip to Kalimantan was visiting the MAF hospital house and hearing testimonies from people who received help—spiritually and physically—from MAF staff and local pastors who minister there.

We participated in a monthly service at the hospital house and visited the hospital where several MAF medevac patients were being treated. We were able to pray with their families and encourage them.

### Serving through Joy and Sorrow

In December, one of our MAF teacher families in Papua lost their 16-year-old daughter, Janae, to complications of pneumonia and dengue fever. David was able to travel to Papua to attend the funeral and later traveled back to the U.S. with the Bilimek family to assist them on what was an incredibly difficult journey.

It was a stark reminder that MAF's work takes our staff to challenging parts of the world, where they live and serve the Lord, often at great personal sacrifice. In the midst of this tragedy, it was beautiful to witness the mission community in Papua surround this family and love and serve them. Please pray for the Bilimeks as they navigate their new reality of life without their daughter.



Greeting the people of Binuang

Life in ministry can be so fulfilling and at the same time very challenging. Through our 25 years with MAF, we have experienced both the highs and lows that come with the unique calling that God has placed before us.

To encourage us in our desire to persevere for the long haul, our MAF board has graciously granted us a three-month sabbatical for the purpose of rest and renewal. From April until June, we plan to step away from ministry duties and spend intentional time with each other, close friends, and the Lord. We would appreciate prayer for a restful and encouraging time, and that we can return to our respective roles strengthened in a new way.

#### **Prayer Requests**

- Pray that our time of sabbatical will be restful and restorative.
- Pray for the Bilimek family.
- Pray for the new MAF program in Nigeria, for visas and permissions.
- Pray for new staff to join the ministry.
- Pray for our young adult kids.

Thank you so much for partnering with us. We are deeply grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and faithful support. It is a gift to serve knowing we are not doing this alone.

*David & Natalie  
Holsten*

#### **Nursery March 1**

##### **Babies:**

Carolyn Blanton, Jan DeLoach,  
Kayla Duero

##### **Toddlers:**

Cindy Dimmitt, Rebekah Helmick

##### **Preschoolers:**

Rachel Beatty, Amy Keller

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#### **Nursery March 8**

##### **Babies:**

Lynn Ernst, Jeanie Groover,  
Beth Lewis

##### **Toddlers:**

Michael & Karrie Walker

##### **Preschoolers:**

Avalon DeLoach, Stacey Kelly

#### **Right Now Media**

If you would like a free subscription to Right Now Media use this link:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fabchurchga>

or scan this QR code:



If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the foyer offering box indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

**[www.fabchurch.com/sermons](http://www.fabchurch.com/sermons)**

# *This Week* at FABC!

## Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Home Fellowships	6:00 p.m.

## Tuesday

Women's Bible Study: <i>Hebrews, Part 1</i>	11:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study: <i>Hebrews, Part 1</i>	6:15 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: <i>1 &amp; 2 Timothy, Titus</i>	6:15 p.m.
Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.

## Wednesday

Supper: Pork Chops	5:30 p.m.
Adventure Club	6:20 p.m.
Youth	6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study: <i>Practical Sanctification</i>	6:45 p.m.

## Thursday

Senior Adult Bible Study: <i>Isaiah</i>	10:00 a.m.
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## Saturday

Crochet Club	10:00 a.m.
Lunch at OSCM: Wises and Tarvers	11:00 a.m.

**Daylight Savings Time Begins: Spring Forward!**

Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for March:

Ron Fowler, Eric Horton

## Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

### Adult

Questions & Answers	Fellowship Hall:	Bob Dimmitt
Daniel	Youth House:	Steve Posner
Union with Christ	Gym Overhang:	Tom Keller

### Children and Students

Babies	Room 3:	Kay Stanford, Sandra Bridges
Toddlers	Room 24:	Taylor & Courtney Pelton
Pre-K	Room 25:	Dustin & Emily Herb
K, 1st and 2nd Grade	Room 28:	John & Pam Humphrey
3rd-6th Grade Boys	Room 202:	Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills
3rd-6th Grade Girls	Room 204:	Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton
Youth Guys & Girls	Room 206:	Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion, Avalon DeLoach