

**I Am Offended That You Are Offended!**

People have always been easy to offend. However, there is a new generation that seems to have made it an artform. They take a benign statement, phrase, act, song or event in history, say it means something that it doesn’t, then shout “OFFENSIVE!” across all their social outlets. It doesn’t end there. Now everyone must be offended by it. If they had their way, whatever offended them would be smitten from the Earth as though it never existed. A lot can be said about why our society is in this mess (#participationtrophies, #nocopingskills). More importantly, we should be thinking about how we live and teach Christ in it. Here are some things to think about while living in an overly sensitive society.

Don’t be that person that pushes the issue. You know that people will be offended, but you do it anyway. You plaster it all over your social media outlets just for spite. That is part of the problem. Galatians 5:15 is true in the church and society, “But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.” In the same way, don’t stop doing what is right or good because of the sensitivity of others. Don’t allow their ignorance to curtail good works. There is a balance between the two that a love for others seeks to find (Gal. 5:14).

Another best practice when working with the easily offended is to speak with facts and truth, not opinions and feelings. This is something we should be doing anyway. The best option we have is to show people what the Bible says and the truth of the matter (Eph. 4:15). The sky is blue because the sky is blue. It doesn’t matter what anyone feels on the matter.

If we choose to engage in a discussion with those of opposite understanding on a touchy subject, we should think about what happens afterward. It is not likely that someone will say, “You know, you are right, and I am wrong.” However, we can converse with them in a way that might lead to more opportunities. We should talk in such a way that no one could rightly accuse us of being combative (2 Tim. 2:25; Jas. 3:13). We are not trying to win an argument. We are trying to win their souls. It must be stated that just because we play nice doesn’t mean they will, but that shouldn’t change who we are.

Finally, make sure the battles you decide to fight are worth it. In my opinion, it is not worth my time to try and convince between 6% and 20% of Americans that don’t believe we landed on the moon otherwise (Prov. 26:4-5). However, the existence of God and the deity of Christ, those are some subjects on which we should draw a line in the sand. We should seek to prick the conscience of those around us with the truth.

Josh Blackmer

**April 14, 2024**

Sunday Morning

Opening Prayer Jeff Duncan

Closing Prayer Adam Cordell

Scripture Reading Dan Logan

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Dallas York

Closing Prayer Charles Logan

**Remember in prayer:**

Benny Sprayberry is home after several days in the hospital with pancreatitis.

Sue Bridges, Peggy Baldwin, Amanda Sellers, Barbara Hall, Julie Sandlin, Bill and Billie Nolen, Carrie Price, David Paden, Caitlin Meredith, Wilma Jane Maynard.

**Oak View Nursing Home:** Betty Floyd, Jane Bishop, Jane York, Polly Hayes.

Millie Hardin (Macon)

**We will have a VBS planning meeting today at 4:00 pm.**

**Adam Cordell** will preach tonight.

Brothers Keepers Group One will meet after services tonight.

Elders and Deacons meeting next Sunday afternoon at 3:30 pm.

Brothers Keepers Group Two will meet next Sunday night after services.

Record for week of April 7, 2024

10 am 11 am 1:00 pm Wed. Contribution

 95 90 65 86 $3032.00

**Weekly Assemblies**

**Sunday:**

Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.

First Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

**Daily Bible Readings:**

Apr 14-20 The Ministry of Healing

14 Power to Heal and Forgive, Mark 2:1-12

15 All Diseases, Mat 4:23-25

16 Healing a Sign of Messiah, Luke 7:18-23

17 One Healed on Another’s Faith, Luke 7:1-10

18 One Healed by Obedience, John 9:1-12

19 Signs Accompanying Believers, Mark 16:14-20

20 Power Through Apostolic Hands, Acts 8:14-24

**Your “always” Friend**

Do you have a friend who is always there for you no matter what? I mean “always”! They never have a family emergency or get sick or have something unexpected come up. You probably have a friend who is “almost always” there for you, but no one could say “always.”

Do you have a friend who will listen to you all times of day or night? I mean “all times”! They are never out of town or are on another call or had their ringer off. You probably have a friend who will listen “almost all the time,” but no one could say “all the time.”

Do you have a friend who always forgives you when you do them wrong and genuinely express sorrow and ask for forgiveness? I mean “always”! They never have to “think about it” or have “had it up to here” or recall your other shortcomings. You probably have a friend who “almost always” will forgive you, but no one could say “always.”

Now, you’ve already figured out the point. You DO have a FRIEND, who is always there for you (Heb. 13:5), always ready to listen (1 John 5:14-15) and will always forgive (1 John 1:9)!

**Elders:** Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

**Deacons:** Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

**Minister:** Hugh Glaze

**Song Leader:** Adam Morgan