



Together Strong: We > Me (Part 11)

Four Countercultural Commands Jesus Gives Us For Overcoming Offense

Pastor Ryan Bunbury
November 13, 2022

SERIES TEXT: "Where two or three gather TOGETHER in my name, there I am with them."
- Jesus, Matthew 18:20 BSB

BIG IDEA: We're better TOGETHER when tied to Jesus, "for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12 NLT).

The Hoarder Popsicle Stick Lesson:

If you will let Jesus help you **clear the clutter of offense**, there's no limit to what He can do in your life.

FOUR COUNTERCULTURAL COMMANDS JESUS GIVES US FOR OVERCOMING OFFENSE

I: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

- "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES!" - Jesus, Luke 6:27 NLT
- Enemies | ἐχθρός | echthros':
actively opposing and hostile; passively hateful e.g., offensive people
- Before we can clear the clutter of offense:
 - 1) Who is an offensive enemy in my life? _____
 - 2) What does Jesus' "love (agapaō) your enemies" command look like?
- *Jesus' Love 101:* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 TPT)
LOVE (agapē) is large and incredibly patient.
LOVE is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else.
LOVE does not brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance.
LOVE does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honor.
LOVE is not easily irritated or quick to take offense.
LOVE joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong.
LOVE is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others.
LOVE never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.
- "Are you really showing true love by loving only those who love you? Even those who don't know God will do that." - Jesus, Luke 6:32 TPT

"We cannot be his witnesses if our lives contradict His message."

Jeff Kinley, *After Shocks: Christians Entering a New Era of Global Crisis*

Jesus, please help. May I love my enemies.

II: DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU

- "But to you who are willing to listen, I say... DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU." - Jesus, Luke 6:27b NLT
- "Blessed are you when men hate you." - Jesus, Luke 6:22 NIV
- "Blessed are you... when they exclude you." - Jesus, Luke 6:22 NIV
- "Blessed are you... when they insult you." - Jesus, Luke 6:22 NIV
- "Blessed are you... when they reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets" - Jesus, Luke 6:22-23 NIV

- “Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!” - Jesus, Luke 6:31 MSG
- The Golden Rule is the fundamental ethic that governs all Christian behavior.
- Romans 12:17-20 TPT
- “Are you really showing compassion when you do good deeds only to those who do good deeds to you? Even those who don’t know God will do that.” - Jesus, Luke 6:32 TPT

Jesus, please help. May I do good to those who hate me.

III: BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU

- “But to you who are willing to listen, I say... BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU.” - Jesus, Luke 6:28a NLT
 - Bless | εὐλογέω | eulogeō: to speak well of
 - On a 1-10 scale, do your conversations honor Jesus?
 - BLESS YOUR ENEMIES; no cursing under your breath. Romans 12:14 MSG
 - “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” - Jesus, Luke 23:34a KJV
 - “You are the light of the world... Let your light shine...” - Jesus, Matthew 5:14 NIV
- “Surely there ought to be some correlation between what a man believes and how he lives.”*
H. Lindsell, *The Battle for The Bible*
- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21 NIV

Jesus, please help. May I bless those who curse me.

IV: PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU

- “But to you who are willing to listen, I say... PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU.” - Jesus, Luke 6:28b NIV
- “... obey everything I have commanded you.” - Jesus, Matthew 28:20a NIV
- ... many of his disciples said, “This is hard teaching. Who can accept it?” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you?” From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. John 6:60-61, 66 NIV
- Will I surrender my hurts to Jesus and pray or will I stay offended and turn away?
- ... the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him. One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray and he prayed to God all night. Luke 6:11-12 NLT
- *Overcoming Offense 101*: “Pray... Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” - Jesus, Matthew 6:9b, 12 NKJV
- “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” - Jesus, Matthew 6:14-15 NIV
- “Ryan: Hoarders of offense need help clearing out the clutter. May I help you?” - Jesus

Jesus, please help. May I forgive _____. May they experience Your blessing, goodness and love.

Jesus

SALVATION PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, I repent of my sin. Please be my Savior and Lord. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.