

(ABC's that threaten Christian living)

Offending And Being Offended

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986, (Rev. 99)

Timeless Truths (Why should I avoid offending and being offended?)

1. The Christian is not to cause another Christian "to stumble" or "be offended" (Gr. "Skandalon" used 40 times), Rom. 14:13,21; 1 Cor. 8:13.
2. Christ was crucified for our "sins" or "offenses" (Gr. "paraptoma" used 7 times) Rom. 4:25; 5:15-20.
3. Christians are not to seek their own good or serve their own interests which causes others in the church to "stumble" or be "offended" (Gr. "aproskopos" used 3 times), 1 Cor. 10:32; Phil. 1:10; (Gr. "skandalon") Rom. 16:17-18.
4. One of the goals of the Christian life is to live in such a way so as not to "stumble" or "have a false footing" (Gr. "ptaio" used 5 times) 2 Pt. 1:10; Ja. 3:2.
5. There is a great judgment against those who cause others to "sin" which is an "offense" (Gr. "skandalon") Mt. 18:7; 13:41.
6. There is a blessing to those who do not "offend" (Gr. "skandalon") Mt. 11:6.

Practical Prescriptions (How can I avoid offending and being offended?)

1. Clean-out sinful tendencies that cause you to stumble!

"...If your right eye causes you to sin ("offend" KJV Gr. "skandalidzo") pluck it out... if your right hand causes you to sin ("offend" KJV) cut it off..." Mat. 5:29-30; 18:8-9.

2. Clear your conscience of past sinfulness!

"... I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense (Gr. "aproskopon") toward God and men," Acts 24:16.

3. Cut-off relationships with people who are not doctrinally sound!

"Now I urge you brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses (Gr. "skandala"), contrary to the doctrine which you have learned, and avoid them," Rom. 16:17.

4. Curb your liberty so that you don't cause others to stumble!

"But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block ("offense" Gr. "proskomma") to those who are weak," 1 Cor. 8:9.

5. Control your life knowing that it is easy to cause an offense!

"For we all stumble ("offend" KJV Gr. "ptaio") in many things. If anyone does not stumble ("offend" KJV Gr. "ptaio") in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body," Ja. 3:2.

6. Concentrate on diligently adding to your faith, thus maturing!

"...Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love... for if you do these things you will never stumble," (Gr. "ptaio"), 2 Pt. 1:10.

7. Centralize the Word of God deep in your heart!

"But he who received the seed on stony places... hears the word and immediately receives it, yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while, for when tribulation and persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles," (Gr. "skandalia"), Mt. 13:20-21; Jn. 15:26-16:4.