

# SG

Your *group* matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

Share an unexpected kindness or grace from an unexpected source that was done for you this past week. Then, praise God together for His gifts of kindness that we can so easily miss if we're not paying attention.

1. In this week's reading in **Unoffendable** (Chapters 5-8), the author uses several stories to illustrate the freedom we can experience by being unoffendable. Which story impacted you most, and why?
2. In his message, Pastor Tom spoke of "those people" who regularly offend us due to things like arrogance, negativity, a critical spirit, meanness, etc. What are the characteristics of "those people" for you – the ones practically guaranteed to set you off?
3. Read **Ephesians 4:27**. Pastor Tom said that the devil uses this foothold to destroy us, distract us, and, ultimately, discredit us in the eyes of people who need Jesus. How has this happened to you and how might it have been avoided? What have you done to release this "foothold" in your life?
4. Read **Ephesians 4:29** and **James 3:2-10**. Considering these Scriptures, why is it essential for followers of Jesus to become "unoffendable" people, and what are the potential consequences of an "offended tongue"?
5. Pastor Tom said that being offended is inevitable, but taking offense is a choice. **Ephesians 4:31-32** shares that the secret of consistently choosing not to take offense is to "put away" bitterness, anger, resentment etc. How do you "put away" these destructive emotions?

If you are not part of a small group, it's not too late to join one. Go to [MYRC.CHURCH/GROUPFINDER](http://MYRC.CHURCH/GROUPFINDER) and email a leader today!

Read Chapters 5-8 (pages 31-61) of **Unoffendable** before you go to small group.

### WEEKLY READING



# RIVERSIDE CHURCH



**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE...**

# UNOFFENDABLE?

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

## MYRC.CHURCH



# "THOSE PEOPLE"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

## MESSAGE NOTES

...we live in a *Cancel Culture* world where people are \_\_\_\_\_ either in the state of being offended, or looking for a way to be offended. Is it actually \_\_\_\_\_ to live an unoffendable life?

### 1. Who Are \_\_\_\_\_?

...*those people* are people who are challenging, critical, \_\_\_\_\_, sometimes just really cranky, negative, and mean.

*Those people* are \_\_\_\_\_.

Dealing with *those people* is \_\_\_\_\_.

Note [Matthew 9:10-11](#); [12:14](#); [26:56b](#)

Note [2 Timothy 1:15](#); [4:9-10](#); [14-16](#)

Note [3 John v.9-10](#)

If we're Jesus followers, we know we're supposed to \_\_\_\_\_ everybody, including *those people*.

But *those people* are more difficult to love than ever before, because in our sideways world offending and being offended has become the \_\_\_\_\_ for most people.

### 2. What is the Risk of not Dealing with *Those People* God's Way?

...having a \_\_\_\_\_ impact in the lives of people who haven't said 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord...

But there's also a risk to ourselves that has \_\_\_\_\_ destructive consequences (note [Ephesians 4:26-27](#)).

Anger undealt with opens the door, creates opportunities, installs footholds/staircases in our lives for the devil to \_\_\_\_\_.

Note [John 8:44](#)

The devil uses \_\_\_\_\_ to confuse, manipulate, and distract us from Jesus, His truth, and His mission.

And \_\_\_\_\_ his goal is to destroy us and our connection to God.

So our spiritual enemy loves to use *those people* in our lives to offend us and stir the \_\_\_\_\_ of anger in our hearts and minds to \_\_\_\_\_ us from others...to \_\_\_\_\_ us from what matters most... (note [Matthew 24:14](#))...and to \_\_\_\_\_ our witness.

### 3. Since There Will Always be *Those People*...

...does God have a different way for us to avoid the personal and spiritual consequences of letting anger control us and inviting spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives? (note [Ephesians 4:29-32](#))

God tells us in multiple places how \_\_\_\_\_ our words are, either for good or for evil (note [James 3:2-10](#)).

We need to comprehend that unlike God, who can express perfectly \_\_\_\_\_, rarely is that something imperfect people can do well or consistently.

Is there any other \_\_\_\_\_ emotion/force/choice in God's Word that we refer to as *righteous*?

### CAN I LIVE AN UNOFFENDABLE LIFE?:

- Being offended is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Living offended is a \_\_\_\_\_ (note [Ephesians 4:31-32](#)).
- A divided world needs a \_\_\_\_\_ church.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ world needs a church full of light and love.
- A *cancel culture* world needs to see that Jesus already canceled our biggest problem (\_\_\_\_\_), and offers anyone forgiveness and a new life.
- Note [Psalm 139:23-24](#)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy).

\*[MyRC.link/connect](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



**SMALL GROUP**  
guide on the back



## "THOSE PEOPLE"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

### MESSAGE NOTES

...we live in a *Cancel Culture* world where people are constantly either in the state of being offended, or looking for a way to be offended.  
Is it actually possible to live an unoffendable life?

### 1. Who Are Those People?

...*those people* are people who are challenging, critical, arrogant, sometimes just really cranky, negative, and mean.

*Those people* are everywhere.

Dealing with *those people* is nothing new.

Note [Matthew 9:10-11](#); [12:14](#); [26:56b](#)

Note [2 Timothy 1:15](#); [4:9-10](#); [14-16](#)

Note [3 John v.9-10](#)

If we're Jesus followers, we know we're supposed to love everybody, including *those people*.

But *those people* are more difficult to love than ever before, because in our sideways world offending and being offended has become the norm for most people.

### 2. What is the Risk of not Dealing with *Those People* God's Way?

...having a negative impact in the lives of people who haven't said 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord...

But there's also a risk to ourselves that has spiritually destructive consequences (note [Ephesians 4:26-27](#)).

Anger undealt with opens the door, creates opportunities, installs footholds/staircases in our lives for the devil to exploit.

Note [John 8:44](#)

The devil uses lies to confuse, manipulate, and distract us from Jesus, His truth, and His mission.

And ultimately his goal is to destroy us and our connection to God.

So our spiritual enemy loves to use *those people* in our lives to offend us and stir the cauldron of anger in our hearts and minds and divide us from others... to distract us from what matters most... (note [Matthew 24:14](#))...and to discredit our witness.

### 3. Since There Will Always be *Those People*...

...does God have a different way for us to avoid the personal and spiritual consequences of letting anger control us and inviting spiritual devastation in our lives? (note [Ephesians 4:29-32](#))

God tells us in multiple places how powerful our words are, either for good or for evil (note [James 3:2-10](#)).

We need to comprehend that unlike God, who can express perfectly righteous anger, rarely is that something imperfect people can do well or consistently. Is there any other destructive emotion/force/choice in God's Word that we refer to as righteous?

### **CAN I LIVE AN UNOFFENDABLE LIFE?:**

- Being offended is inevitable.
- Living offended is a choice (note [Ephesians 4:31-32](#)).
- A divided world needs a united church.
- A dark world needs a church full of light and love.
- A *cancel culture* world needs to see that Jesus already canceled our biggest problem (sin), and offers anyone forgiveness and a new life.
- Note [Psalm 139:23-24](#)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy).

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