

**Going on Offense
(Without Being Offensive)
Part 1
Matthew 16:18**

-Happy Mothers Day!

- Too often the church is on defense
- It is time we learned to go on Offense (Without Being Offensive)

- Peyton Video on John's cue.**
- Be ready to pause during the playing of the video**

Modern Day Monasticism is a Spiritual Disease

Here is our test to see if we are modern day evangelical monastic monks

- 1-Do you only desire Christians as friends?
- 2-Do you long to only work with Christians and for a Christian company?
- 3-Do you only want to do business with Christians?
- 4-Do you hope and wish and pray that the neighborhood you move into surrounds you with Christian families?
- 5-Do you hope that your favorite sports teams have mostly Christians on it?
- if so then you are not a Raiders Fan

What 'being Offensive' when going on offense does not mean ...

- 1-It is Offensive to God if we exclude the Cross of Jesus Christ, just to avoid persecution or rejection.

Gal. 5:11

11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.

- Know ahead of time these responses:

-1Cor. 1:18, 23

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ...

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

- If there is No Cross then there is no need to go on offense.
- If there is a cross and there is no resurrection following the cross, we are of all people most miserable and there is no need to go on Offense
- If there is no virgin birth of the Son of God becoming man there is no sinless sacrifice and there is no need to Go on Offense
- for in a sinful body the Son of man would need a savior, never mind being the savior for mankind
- The phrase: **'The Lord'** can mean many things to many people,
- But the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to live and the way to Heaven
- George Harrison created this confusion for my generation:
- Here are some of the Lyrics to **My Sweet Lord**:
 - My sweet Lord ... 1970
 - I really want to see you
 - Really want to be with you
 - Really want to see you Lord
 - But it takes so long, my Lord

My sweet Lord (*choir sings: hallelujah*)
 My, my, Lord (*choir sings: hallelujah*)
So far so good! But listen closely
 My, my, my Lord (*choir sings: Hare Krishna*)
 Oh hm, my sweet Lord (*choir sings: Krishna, Krishna*)
 Oh-uuh-uh (*choir sings: Hare, Hare*)
 Now, I really want to see you (*choir sings: Hare Rama*)
 Really want to be with you (*choir sings: Hare Rama*)
 Really want to see you Lord (aaah)
 But it takes so long, my Lord (*choir sings: hallelujah*)

-Who is the Lord in this song? Some version of Lord Beelzebub, Hare Krishna
 -Who is our Lord: Jesus Christ is Lord
 -Amen

When speaking to outsiders say may the Lord Jesus Christ Bless you and not the Lord Bless

Principles of Offense

Going on Offense is the Will of God: Matthew 16:18 & Matthew 28:19

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this *the rock* I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

-What do gates do? Keep some in, others out.
 -Gates are defensive
 -Jesus makes two emphatic statements:
 1-I will build my church
 2-The gates of Hades will not prevail against it

Do we believe it?

-Having laid that cornerstone of truth, He then went to the cross, defeated sin and death, the devil, the world systems, and our flesh
 -Defeated them but did not eliminate them
 -He conquered them and as we walk in the conquering Spirit they can have no power over us that is not Father filtered or Father purposed, and thus Father approved ...
 -What happens when the world arrests and jails an Apostle Paul and you think you have won?
 -God saves the jailor and many others thru Paul's offense.

-And before He ascended into Heaven Jesus gave these 'offense instructions' to His Disciples
 -Again Jesus emphatically said in Matt. 16:18: **The gates of Hades will not prevail against my church.**
 -Why not?

The answer is in

... our second foundational verse: **Matthew 28:19** (*my expanded version*) **Go on offense therefore and**
 -why do I add go on offense?: Because after conquering death, sin, the devil, the world system and thus making it possible to have victory over our flesh, the Devil, and the world He said this in **28:18:**

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

-All authority and all those in authority are under my authority!
 -There is no authority exercised seemingly against you that is not under His Authority

- They do not have to submit to Him, or know Him-all are under His Authority
 - Everything that happens in your life as His child is Father filtered
 - He wants you on offense all of the time under any conditions
 - Jesus goes on in verse 19
- make or persuade all the ethnic nations to become disciples**

Now that we understand the basic principles that God wants us on offense, what do we do next?

Preparations for Going on Offense

Remember the 4 'Rs'

Remember the 4 'Rs' in school?

- For Larry and Donald, Raider's fans extraordinaire, it was 5 'Rs'
- Here is a new list of 4 Rs....

1st R-from now on we: **Regard** people as god regards them

-An therefore be ready for the ministry of reconciliation

2Cor. 5:15-16 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again....

16 Therefore, from now on, we **regard** no one according to the flesh...

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation

2nd R-**Remember**: **Titus 3:3-5**, Be ready to be forbearing, longsuffering, and kind,

Titus 3:3-5 3 *remember* For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared,

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

3rd R-**Replace**: Replace your natural mind set with a Christ mindset, **then** Be ready to serve anyone!

-**Phil. 2:5-8** Let this mindset be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ... though He was equal with God He emptied himself and became totally dependent on the Father and the Spirit ... He took on the form of a bondservant, humbled himself, obeyed His Father and was crucified for mankind ... and was highly exalted after His primary ministry was accomplished or FINISHED

4th R-**Rearm**: with Forbearance, Longsuffering and positive Kindness towards the unsaved, towards those who have walked away from the faith and are in sin.

-Starts with God's Example

Rom. 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His ~~goodness~~ kindness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness or the generosity of God leads you to repentance?

Three God characteristics must be in us from Rom. 2:4

1-**Forbearance** (a holding back, a delay of punishment)

-The word is *an-o-che* is only used here and in **Rom. 3:24-25**

24 we being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed

-God passed-over previous sins in His forbearance: Do an apply the 'Passover' with people that sin against you!

-What enables the Father to be so forbearing and kind and longsuffering towards sinners?

-It is not just the correct attitude or mindset, that is needed

-But it is the propitiation that has occurred in v.24, propitiation, total satisfaction thru His Son's blood regarding any offense to His sinlessness.

2-Longsuffering, 'a long fussed temperament'

Here are some helps:

-Remember they have a different world view than you do

-Remember they are spiritually dead

-Remember they are ruled by this world system and by the prince of the power of the air

-Remember that you were once among them and like them

-take these things to heart

3-Kindness

I define as: looking to serve and be generous where it is not deserved

-In Gal. 5:22- kindness is a characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit which is love

-You don't have to pretend, it is produced by the Holy Spirit: let it come forth

2 Cor. 6:3, 4, 6

3 We give no offense (or we are not offensive) in anything, that our ministry of offense may not be blamed.....

..... 4 But in all things we rec-commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs or necessities, in distresses,

6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,

-We are to be on offense whatever our personal weather looks like

Build Bridges to Cross Over into Their Lives

Luke 16:24-26

24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.

26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

-What is Abraham asked to do? Build a bridge and send Lazarus over

-But it is too late, no bridge can be built, no one will can come over

Build bridges from the materials that are present

-We must build them.

-They won't.

-In Acts 17 Paul noticed an altar built to the unknown god. From this he built a bridge:

v. 22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very *devoutly* religious;

23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship (*looking for a bridge to cross over to you*), I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

-Paul being a Jew who loved his people took advantage of the bridge that was the synagogue

-**Acts 17:2** says this:

2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures

-this was Jesus' custom as well we learn in Luke 4:16

-What are your regular customs, daily or weekly are we building bridges?

-In John 4 Jesus built a bridge to a Samaritan woman, a natural enemy of the Jews by asking for a cup of water from an enemy!

-Jesus built a bridge with a chief tax collector, Zacchaeus, by inviting Himself over for dinner,

-with a man that was probably hated by all except tax collectors and Jesus.

-The Gadarene just delivered from a legion of demons and with a reputation of mayhem and destruction wherever he went in his home town,

-after he was restored and in his right mind wanted to leave his home of great embarrassment and follow Jesus.

-What did Jesus say to him: And I paraphrase: You have a bad reputation here,

-I have made you whole and I want you to take advantage of this situation and tell your home town folks what great things the Lord has done for you.

-His great change was an immediate bridge of opportunity in his home town.

Grow Your Faith, Walk by Faith

-Know what you believe and live what you know

-Don't speak to what you do not know.

-Tell whomever asks you a tough question: 'I don't know, I will research it and get back to you'

-Living your faith includes showing others what being forgiven looks like

-As a Christian you do not lose the opportunity to witness because you have sinned against someone else.

-What you gain is the opportunity for them to 'witness what forgiveness looks like'!

-We will never seem to know enough, nor will we think that we perfectly live what we know

Now we are ready to go on offense ...

Proceeding an Offense

What does our offense look like?

#1-Be 'offense minded', above all pray specifically for specific unbelievers in your life

-In the Book of Acts, it is written that they prayed 21 times.

-From Chapters 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 they prayed

-As I read the Scriptures God seems to work where He is asked!

-What specifically do we pray for regarding the unbelievers?

-1 that the Father would keep His Word and draw all mankind unto Jesus, **John 12:32-33**

32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

-Pray for the specific drawing of a specific person to Jesus by the H.S.

-2 We pray that the veil of blindness be lifted from those who do not believe:

2Cor. 4:3-5

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

-3 You pray for open doors:

1Cor. 16:9

9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

2Cor. 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, ...

Rev. 3:8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door

-What is another four letter word for 'door'? GATE and its plural GATES

#2-Try to get paired. Have a prayer partner. A strategy partner. Jesus sent them in twos!

Mark 6:7 And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.

Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.

-The mighty bold apostle Paul had Barnabas, then Silas and each of them had the Holy Spirit in them

-At your place of employment look for another believer of the same sex and pray with them.

#3 Be a witness, build bridges, look to serve and give: Be kind to the unkindly

-Witness where you are sown

-In your neighborhood if you are married, with your spouse and perhaps your kids as you they get older

-If they are spiritual:

-Jeremy Crasner shared with us Thursday night that he had it on good authority that when Lucifer was kicked out of heaven he was probably 14 or 15 years old!!

-Be a light and a witness to those you work with and for

-If your boss doesn't like you be sure you are the best of workers and ask him or her how you can be a better servant.

-Go on offense!

#4-Remember you are to plant and water, God gives the increase, God adds to the church those He saves!

-in a Word your success is measured by faithfulness, not notches on your salvation belt.

So, what do you do if you are

Punched while on Offense

-Shake the dust off your sandals AND then put them back on!

-1st-Shake the dust off your sandals

Matt. 10:14

14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

-2nd- AND then put them back on!

-Look to serve thru kindness the ungodly,

-those that need God's kind of kindness shown to them when you have been on Offense and the response has not gone well

-How do we respond in turn?

Turn to: **Romans 12:14-21**

14 Bless with words those who persecute you; bless with words and do not curse.

-Often the people in our world are hurting and their response to you is anger towards God, what do you do?

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard or provide instead for good things in the sight of all men.

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

-There may come the point when you have to leave them alone and pray and over time the Holy Spirit will be working ... A return bridge may be built ...

-You have been wronged and the instruments of vengeance that God has set up on earth, the police, the courts do not provide you justice?

-What do you do?

-You are very angry! Even upset with God. This is not fair!

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written,

"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

-Leave it with God. He will take care of you and the situation

And

20 Therefore, go back on offense

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

-melting fires of conviction, softening fires for hard clay, warming fires for cold hearts

21 Do not be overcome by evil (by withdrawing or becoming bitter, wrathful), but to avoid those reactions overcome evil with good.

-When we are punched, and perhaps punched again and again we may react differently than the disciples in Acts 4:17-31.

-So it is important that we respond not to prevent future conflict but to respond in such a way as to maintain the weapons of our warfare.

-The response of much of the church in Europe and America to getting punched in the mouth is to ignore, change, or eliminate anything in the Word of God that offends the culture

We will not do that: For we are to be on Offense and not change the doctrines of Salvation and sin and thus be offensive to our Lord Jesus Christ!

Amen!

Again Happy Mother's Day!