



Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

“I’m offended”

Thursday, December 15, 2016

“Good grief, we're getting offended by everything these days! People can't say anything without offending somebody.” – Hillary Clinton

Verse for the week: Matthew 5:9(NLT) “God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”

Have you ever sent a text or made a phone call (or whatever mode of communication you use) asking a question or sharing something? Of course, you have! If we don't receive a response in a timely manner, we begin to wonder what's wrong. Before email and cell phones we would expect a response to take a bit of time, now we expect a response almost instantaneously. I know I'm guilty. The more time that goes by, the more our minds kick into gear and we start thinking the worst. In some cases, we can even become offended. I believe social media and new technology have accentuated the issue. John Bevere says, ***“An offended heart is the breeding ground of deception”***. What he means is that when we become offended, our minds conjure up all sorts of things. We begin to have a battle going on in our mind that isn't even real. It's like the old cartoon that has a devil on one shoulder and an angel on the other. They are both speaking to us and it can get a little crazy up there. Before things get too crazy, we need to take some steps:

- 1. TALK YOURSELF OUT OF BEING OFFENDED** – Don't assume the worst!! And even if they are blowing you off, remember President Lincoln's wise words: ***“We should be too big to take offense and too noble to give it.”***
- 2. OVERCOME SELF-CENTEREDNESS** – Often when we are offended, it's because we think the world revolves around us. I know it's a lifelong battle that we face, but when we have victory over it once, it will be easier to have it the next time.
- 3. ACCEPT IMPERFECTION** – No one on this earth is perfect, in fact there has only been one perfect person that ever lived. That's why the apostle Peter said in **1 Peter 4:8(NLT)**, ***“Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.”***

Three great steps for striving to avoid being offended. In some cases, it's too late because we've already gotten offended and lashed out. In that situation, we need to seek the person out and apologize and hope they are following the steps above.

Questions to ask yourself: Have you been offended this past week? Which step do you most need to work on? When will you begin working on the steps?