

Sermon Quotes
February 3rd, 2008
How to Respond Biblically to Offences

How to Respond Biblically to Offenses:

1. What does God want me to do when I am offended?
2. What does God want me to do when someone offended with someone else starts talking to me?

Romans 13:9-10 ESV The commandments...are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **Love does no wrong to a neighbor**; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

When you talk negatively about someone behind their back or listen to someone talk negatively about someone behind their back, you are committing the sins of either gossip or slander.

The **only** exceptions to this are:

1. You've already gone to the person you are offended with privately and they wouldn't listen or discuss it with you.
2. You are involving someone else to ask their help in reconciling with this person.

Psalms 15:1-3 "O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; **who does not slander with his tongue** and **does no evil to his neighbor**, nor **takes up a reproach against his friend...**"

Psalms 101:5 (God speaking) "**Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy...**"

Proverbs 6:16-19 "There are six things that **the Lord hates**, seven that are an **abomination** to Him: (6 are listed out, but look at the 7th one)...**and one who sows discord among brothers.**"

Proverbs 16:28 "A **dishonest man** spreads strife, and a **whisperer** (a slanderer) **separates** close friends."

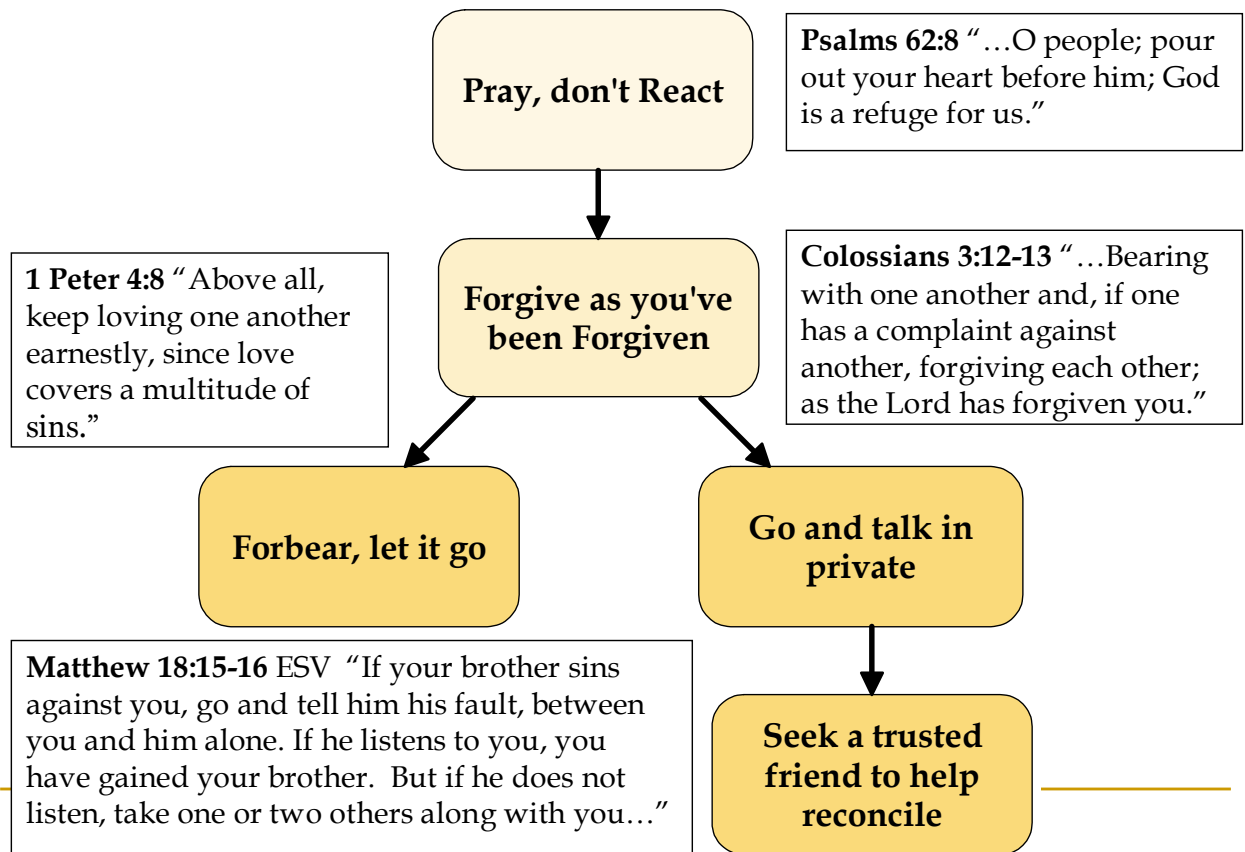
Matthew 15:18-20 ESV (Jesus speaking) "But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, **and this defiles a person**. For **out of the heart come** evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, **slander**. These are what defile a person..." (*Note the serious sins slander is bunched together with.*)

2 Corinthians 12:20 ESV "For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you **not as I wish**, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, **anger, hostility, slander, gossip**, conceit, and disorder."

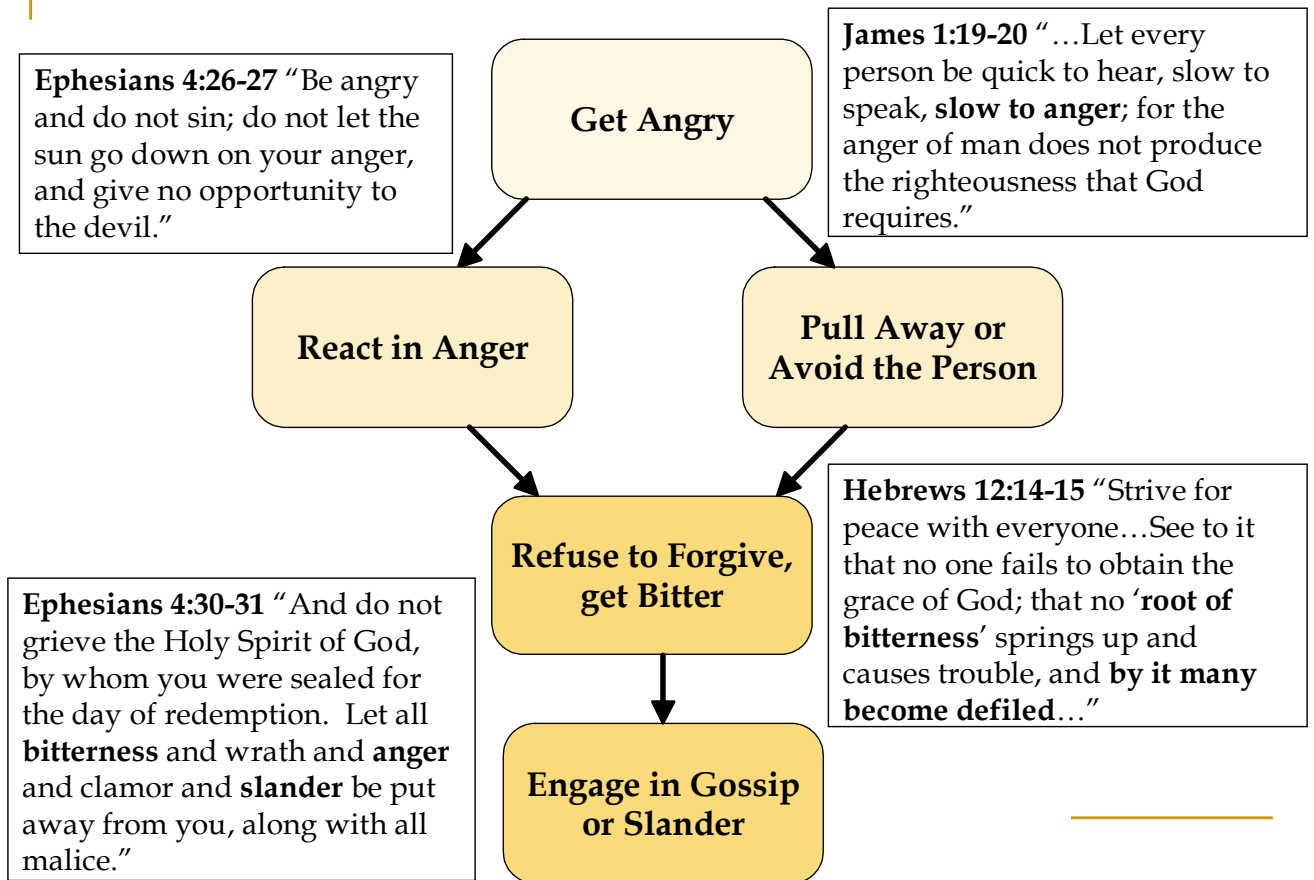
Ephesians 4:30-31 ESV "And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Let all bitterness and wrath and anger** and clamor **and slander be put away from you**, along with all malice.

Titus 3:10-11 ESV “As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, **have nothing more to do with him**, knowing that such a person is **warped and sinful**; he is **self-condemned**.”

A Biblical Response to Offense



A Sinful Response to Offense



Proverbs 18:8 "The words of a whisperer (slanderer) are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body."

Proverbs 16:28 "A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer (slanderer) separates close friends."

*So how should you respond to someone trying to involve you in their offense?
How about something like this...*

"Before you go on, it seems pretty clear that you haven't forgiven this person in your heart, and you've already said you haven't gone to them first to try and reconcile, so I'm really uncomfortable with you getting me involved at this point.

"In fact, can I appeal to you to do what Jesus commands all of us to do when we're offended with someone? To pray about it and forgive them, then get with them and talk it out? You do that, and it doesn't go well, I'd be happy to try and help."