

Keys to overcoming offense

1. Make a quality decision not to be offended (Ps. 119:165)

- A. Nothing has to offend you
- 2. Warfare through an offense

- **God will take care of our hurt feelings if we make the right choice.**
- **Decision will win over emotions**
 - a. Never leave a church

Reasons Why People Leave Churches

- 10% leave to go to be with the Lord
- 12% prefer another church
- 12% job relocation
- 66% offended

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2. Keep your love tank full (I John 2:9-11)

- A. Causes of offence:
 - 1. Insecurity. Some will be offended no matter what. Strokes, getting their way
 - a. Avoid being oversensitive. Learn to overlook ...

- **Proverbs 19:11**

3. Realize vindication comes from the Lord (Romans 12:17-21)

- A. Don't gloat when they fall
 - 1. "Vindicate me without causing harm to anyone else"
 - 2. Put it in God's hands

4. Sincerely pray for individuals victory & success (Matthew 5: 43-46)

- A. It will kill selfishness
 - 1. Pray until negative feelings go away

5. Make forgiveness a way of life (Luke 17:1-5)

- A. faith
 - 1. Irritating ... spouse
 - a. Be willing to be hurt again
 - b. Don't expect perfection

6. Walk in diligence against bitterness (Proverbs 4:23)

- A. Don't allow the offense into your heart.

"Bitterness is like acid. It does more damage to the vessel in which it is stored than to that which it is poured"

- 1. Don't dwell
 - a. Don't nurse or rehearse
 - b. Recycled bitterness ... bigger than it was before (Big Fish)
 - c. Deal with offenses as you do weeds:
 - Pull them often
 - Pull them early before they take over the garden
- B. Hebrews 12: 14-15 - Get rid of it.