

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 24 “Avoiding the Devil’s Trap”

I. Introduction - I’m going to zoom out from the series we’ve been doing on the book or *Romans* today. I’m going to share what I taught last week at the men’s meeting at Charis Church. I taught on offense and the response was so powerful it really impacted me.

A. Men were repenting and praying for one another and there healing that took place in the room. The men’s group leader also made the point that what I taught provided wisdom to help people hear God’s voice.

1. I debated all week long about teaching this until I listened to Bill Johnson’s message last week an he made a statement that confirmed to me this is what I’m supposed to share today. He said, “**The Spirit of offense will gift you to hear things that haven’t been said.**”

2. Natalie/Ashley Example

B. The reason I said we are zooming out on our series in *Romans* is the main thing Paul wanted to reform is the relationship between the Jewish and Gentile Christians. Satan was attempting to use offense because of their differences as a trap to hinder to move of God in Rome that had the ability to change the world!

II. Avoiding the Devil’s Trap

A. **Luke 17:1 The Trap of the Devil**

1. **skándalon**, skan'-dal-on; ("scandal"); probably from a derivative of G2578; a trap-stick (bent sapling), i.e. snare (figuratively, cause of displeasure or sin):—occasion to fall (of stumbling), offence, thing that offends, stumblingblock.

2. How does a hunter set a trap? He sets a piece of meat (something attractive) out so an animal will strike and then get trapped/ensnared.

3. In a trap play in football, the guard doesn’t block the defensive tackle in front of him and blocks down. If the defender isn’t aware of going on, he will run straight ahead into the backfield as fast as he can and get himself out of position. Then the pulling guard from the opposite side will be able to block him easily and the running back will run into the space he vacated.

4. Offense is a trap the devil sets that will take us out of the perfect will of God. I’ve watched it happen in marriages, churches, people’s job’s etc. God puts them in a position and then Satan brings offense and they then get bitter and quit the marriage, church, job, etc. We are called to Spirit led and not offense led. This is a big deal too, because Jesus said its impossible that offenses won’t come.

B. **2 Corinthians 2:9-11 The Devil’s Gameplan**

1. Paul tells this church to forgive offense because they aren't ignorant of the devil's tactics.
2. Back to the football analogy, this is like knowing your opponents gameplan. If you know 30% of the running plays they call are going to be trap plays, don't you think you should prepare?

C. **Matthew 24:9-11 The Offended Heart Leads to Deception**

1. Being tribulated, hated, and killed is legitimately wrong stuff.
2. The point is you may have had really bad things happen to you, but if you don't process them well it leads to deception.

D. How Do I Process Offense in a Healthy Way?

1. Prayer - We also need to ask for the Holy Spirits help to forgive. Forgiveness isn't natural, it is supernatural. **Luke 17:2-5.**
 - a. What is asking Jesus to increase our faith? Talking to God (prayer).
 - b. It's amazing that the disciples didn't ask Jesus to increase their faith when He walked on the water, multiplied food, or healed people, but when He said to walk in the character of God, they realized they needed more faith. **Ask for help! The helper is in you!**
 - c. Pray for the person who offended you. **Matthew 5:44.** When we pray for people it will knit our heart with there's. It doesn't mean we will like what they did, but we will love them. It's hard to stay mad at someone you are praying for.
2. Do Something kind for the one who offended you. **Romans 12:17-21** Our heart goes where our treasure is.
 - a. Melissa Story - Got offended and almost got out of the will of God. Listened to Greg Mohr teach about the woman who sabotaged his floral business. Bought her several thousand dollars worth of flowers. This healed his heart and transformed her. Was able to pray for her years later.
 - b. God had me buy Melissa a giftcard and apologize to her for my bad attitude. She's have been less shocked if I'd have slapped her. Long story short, we reconciled and then a year later when I landed the biggest deal in my recruiting history and in the Colorado Springs office recruiting history, she was the one who helped me secure it and fill a lot of the jobs putting money in my pocket. This allowed me to leave the company and then go work for AWM my last year of Bible College.

III. Conclusion - If I wouldn't have processed that offense well, ya'll would have probably never heard of me. I may have never stepped into my destiny. Offenses are coming so we must learn to process them well.

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Call Up Prayer Team