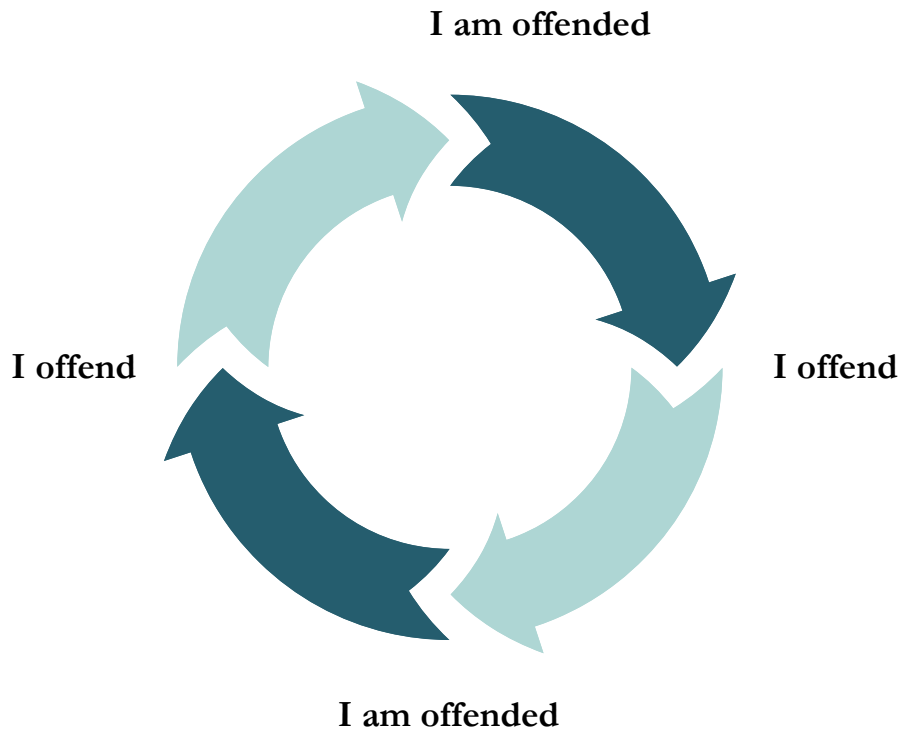


Seat of the Offender

How to get out of the Seat of the Offender

Someone must break the cycle of offense.



Will you be the one?

Matthew 5:39 – 41: *Jesus said, “If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”*

Ask God to make you sensitive to the times when you unintentionally offend others.

We can cause hurt and offense much more easily than we realize.

Pray **Psalm 141:3** *Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.*

Ephesians 4:29: *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

Be willing to make the first step toward reconciliation. Apologize if necessary.

Romans 12:18: *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

Treating someone with honor gets you out of the Seat of the Offender.

Romans 12:10: *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

Romans 12:10: *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* (ESV)

Ways to show honor:

- Listen with a caring ear
- Speak kind words of encouragement
- Try to meet their needs
- Respect their opinions
- Give them first choice
- Put their needs above your own

Seat of the Offended

How to get out of the Seat of the Offended

You have a choice.

There is nothing that the person who has offended you can do to get you out of the Seat of the Offended! If you are in the Seat of the Offended, it is because you choose to stay there.

Romans 12:14: *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

How do you bless someone who has offended you?

- Pray that God will bless them
- Speak words of blessing to them
- Bless them in substantive ways, if possible (i.e., gifts, food, assistance)
- Refuse to slander or speak ill of them

Proverbs 19:11: *A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.*

Proverbs 17:9: *He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*

Proverbs 18:19: *An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.*

Galatians 5:1: *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

You have an enemy.

Proverbs 25:21-22 *If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.*

“Burning coals” are not to harm your enemy, but to melt his or her cold heart—to melt away the stubbornness so that the relationship can be restored.

Some examples of food or drink you can provide for your “enemy”:

- Food of kindness
- Food of encouragement
- The cold refreshing water of unconditional love
- An invitation to lunch
- A card of sympathy or encouragement

You need to forgive.

In order to get out of the miserable Seat of the Offended, you must learn to forgive the Offender.

Proverbs 20:22: *Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.*

Mark 11:25: *And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*

Colossians 3:13: *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Remember, forgiveness is relinquishing your right for revenge and trusting God to make all things right someday.

Romans 12:18: *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*