

# Is it possible to be UNOFFENDABLE?

A review of the book by Brant Hansen

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led by Mary Lowman

**Book Review:** Hansen, Brandt, *Unoffendable*, W Publishing, Nashville, TN. 2023

\*This will be a book review, not a traditional book study, where I will try to capture the essence of the author's message and pass it on to you. Therefore, you don't have to own or read the book to be a part of this "review."

The Bible has few if any references to anger as something good, something helpful—except for God's anger. James 1:20 tells us that *human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires*.

Vindictiveness belongs to God, not to us. Our anger should be very, very short—like letting go before the sun goes down. And not picking it back up the next morning.

Harbored anger—overnight anger—turns into bitterness pretty quickly.

**Ephesians 4:26-27:** *"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*

When we harbor anger, when we hold on to offenses and never fully forgive those who have offended us, we are opening the door for the devil to get a foothold in our lives.

God has given us another way of living which is far more valuable and in the end, far easier—and that is to choose to be unoffendable. "He (God) knows we can live better this way. We'll be under less stress. We'll be able to live in the moment" (Hansen, 2023, p. 84).

## What about injustice?

Aren't we supposed to be angry at injustice?

"Anger and action are two very different things, and confusing the two actually hurts our efforts to set things right" (Hansen, 2023, p. 90).

We are to be motivated not by anger, but by love—God's kind of love which is an action. We act out of love, to show mercy, to correct injustices and set things right. Christians should be in the forefront of *actions*, not just words.

We should have the strongest voices against the evil in our world. But it should be—must be—because our hearts go out to people who are trapped in these lies. We see beyond their words and their behavior and recognize that they don't know Jesus and they are desperately trying to cope with life, unfortunately in destructive ways.

What would you be like if you didn't know Jesus?

How can we fight injustice without anger? We wait on the Lord.

**Proverbs 20:22:** *Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; wait for the LORD, and He will save you.*

**Micah 6:8:** *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

Rachel Denhollander was a teenage victim of Dr. Larry Nassar, who was convicted of sexually assaulting scores of young girls for years as the national team doctor for USA Gymnastics. Denhollander, now a lawyer, writes this about justice and real forgiveness:

“Both of those are biblical concepts. Both of those represent Christ. We do not do well when we focus on only one of them. . . I trust in God’s justice and release anger and a desire for personal vengeance. It does not mean that I minimize or mitigate or excuse what he had done. It does not mean that I pursue justice on earth any less zealously. It simply means that I release personal vengeance against him, and I trust God’s justice, whether he chooses to mete that out purely, eternally, or both in heaven and on earth” (Hansen, 2023, p. 99-100).

### **Conclusion**

This book is about being unoffendable. You won’t be able to do this consistently until and unless you continually and consistently focus on who God is and how much he loves you...how unbelievable is his grace and forgiveness to you and me.

“Whether or not you currently feel that God is around doesn’t alter reality. Whether or not you feel He loves you, or even that you are worthy of His love, doesn’t change reality either” (Hansen, 2023, p. 119).

“You suspect you’re unlovable? He loves you. You wonder, deep down, if anyone could really, truly know you and still want you? He knows you better than you know you. And He wants you. You’ve given up on yourself? He hasn’t given up on you. This isn’t feel-good talk; it’s the rightful conclusion we can draw from the cross itself. He still loves us because He’s a Father. . . the One we’ve always wanted” (Hansen, 2023, p. 124).

### **Closing**

Will you choose to be unoffendable? It won’t be easy, but it’s easier than harboring anger and bitterness. You won’t succeed all the time, but God knows that. Just repent when you fail and start again. It’s a process, not a one-time fix.

“Choosing to be an unoffendable person is not ‘common sense.’ It is not normal to practice a lifestyle of letting go of one’s right to anger—even at oneself. The whole thing sounds unfair, imbalanced, and out of step with how the world usually operates. And so does grace. It’s completely unfair. It’s imbalanced in the highest degree. And—thank God—it’s utterly out of step with how the world usually operates” (Hansen, 2023, p. 147-148).



### **Revelation 7:9-10:**

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”