



The NIV version is used for all questions.

1. What does it mean to be offended? Do you think that it is possible to be unoffendable? Why or why not? Is it possible to be offended by someone and at the same time treat them as if they did not offend you? Read Colossians 3:13. What role would forgiveness play in this?
2. Pastor Rick said that there are three misconceptions about anger, what are they? Do you agree that we should not be angry in these three ways? Why or why not?
3. What are the five subject areas that Pastor Rick said are the main things that offend Christians now? Have you ever been angry at someone because of one of these areas? Instead of getting angry at people for what they believe, what should we do instead? Do you have to agree with someone that they are right in order to be loving? What does Ephesians 4:15 tell us to do?
4. What does Proverbs 15:1 tell us to do instead of lashing out at others in anger? Can the way you say something be more offensive than what you say? Can you give an example?
5. People who struggle with anger issues many times have justifications for why they get angry. What are some of these? Are there any legitimate reasons to react angrily toward someone? What does Colossians 3:8 say we must do?
6. Pastor Rick said that there are four keys to being unoffendable, what are they? Which one is easiest for you to do? Which one the hardest?
7. Grace Church's motto is, "Love No Matter What". What does this mean? What does this topic have to do with this motto?

ANSWERS

1. *The dictionary definition of the word offended is “to feel hurt, angry, or upset by something said or done”. Based on that definition, it is probably unrealistic to think that you will never feel hurt, angry or upset by something that is done to you. The important question is, “How do I respond when I am offended”? To be unoffendable means to never respond to someone in anger for what they say or do, it is your outward actions toward people. You cannot be unoffendable if you are unwilling to forgive people when they offend you. This is exactly what Jesus was speaking about when he said to love your enemies and pray for those who spitefully use you.*
2. *The three misconceptions are: a. Christians can have righteous anger; b. Christians should be angry at sin but not the sinner; and c. Christians have a God given right to get angry. You will probably have a variety of views regarding these three statements, and there is room for disagreement with what Pastor Rick said in his sermon. Let the people in your group hash out the arguments for their position but emphasize that if we cannot support our position with scripture, then it is merely our opinion.*
3. *The five areas that Christians react angrily over are: a. Sexual Orientation; b. Political differences; c. Abortion; d. Environmental perspective; and e. Differences in church denominational viewpoints. We should never condemn, judge or react angrily toward people who have different opinions from us, even when those opinions are Biblically wrong. Jesus said we are to love everyone. Ephesians 4:15 says we are to “speak the truth in love”. We should never hold back from speaking the truth, from standing firm on what the Bible says about anything, but at the same time we are to do it in love. Whether we speak the truth in love or not is what the next question deals with. To speak the truth in love is to speak in a way that seeks the benefit of the person we are speaking to, not to show that we are “right” and they are “wrong”.*
4. *Proverbs 15:1 says that a soft answer turns away anger, we should always respond to others in a loving way with an attitude of concern for the wellbeing of people we talk to. How many times have you been told by someone you love (for me it is my wife) that it is “not what you said, but how you said it”? Many times people are more offended by the attitude we portray when we say something than what we actually say. This should never be true of us as Christians.*
5. *Some of the justifications that angry people sometimes use to explain why it is okay for them to be angry might be: “Well, that’s just the way I am, God made me that way” or “I’m Irish, and that is just part of my heritage”, or “I am only that way toward stupid people, if they weren’t so stupid, I would not get angry”. See if your group can think of others. **Colossians 3:8 (NIV)** ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. There is no justification, ever, in scripture to respond to anyone at any time in anger.*
6. *The four keys were: a. Realize that anger is a sinful reaction, not a godly response; b. Give the same grace to others I hope to receive when I fail; c. Remember anger is the result of demanding my own way; and d. Forgive everyone every time for everything and refuse to be angry.*
7. *This motto means that no matter what a person does, no matter what they believe, no matter who they are, we are to always love them and treat them with respect. The only way you can really learn to treat people like this is if you become unoffendable. We must learn to respond to people, not react to them in anger*