



The NIV version is used for all questions.

1. Pastor Rick said that the first way to be an unoffendable follower of Jesus is to remember that every offense is taken, not given. What does this mean? If this is true, who decides when I am offended? Can anyone make you be offended?
2. What are the three things we should do so that we don't take offense for what people say or do? Which one is the hardest for you to do? Why?
3. What is the second way to be an unoffendable follower of Jesus? Why do you think some people think it is their job to fix everyone else's faults? Have you ever known anyone who does nothing but criticize others but never fixes their own faults? How does it make you feel when you are around them? Read Matthew 7:1-5. What does Jesus say we should do?
4. What is the third way to be an unoffendable follower of Jesus? Do you think this means that we cannot ever expect anyone to do what they should do? What is the way to balance this idea?
5. What is the fourth way to be unoffendable? What is grace? Name ways that God has extended grace to you. Do you want people to extend grace to you when you make mistakes? Why? Read Matthew 5:38-47. Do you think this passage is talking about extending grace to others?
6. What was Pastor Rick's final thought? Have you ever known a person who was right but not loving? Explain. Have you ever known a person who was right and also loving at the same time? Explain. What would happen if we all lived by this final thought?

## ANSWERS

1. *This means that an offense does not occur when a person does or says something, but when the person who receives it decides to be offended by what was said or done, it is their decision. No one forces or makes you offended, you decide to be offended and you can decide not to be offended.*
2. *The three things we should do are; a. Don't let every little comment or action offend me; b. Stay positive and assume the best of everyone; and c. Stoppe thinking every look, comment, and action someone does is about me.*
3. *The second way to be unoffended is to fix myself and top trying to fix others. Many times those who are always trying to fix everyone else is to hide from themselves their own faults that need to be fixed. Matthew 7:1-5 clearly says fix yourself before you even think about fixing someone else. We should never try to fix someone who has not asked us to help them.*
4. *The third way to be unoffendable is to lower my expectations of everyone. This does not mean that you cannot have any expectations that people should carry out their responsibilities. If you are a parent you have to communicate expectations to your kids, if you are a boss you have to communicate expectations of your employees. This actually means to lower your expectations of how people will treat you personally, not whether people do what they need to do.*
5. *The fourth way is to raise my gratitude for God's grace to me. Grace is when you get something that you do not deserve to get. In Matthew 5:38-47 Jesus tells us that we are to treat people in a way they do not deserve to be treated, just like he does for us.*
6. *His final thought was: "Jesus never said I need to be right but he did say I have to be loving". You can be right about something but when you communicate it to someone, if you are not doing it because you actually care for them and want the best for them, then you are not being loving. You can communicate hard truth to people that you care about and they will receive it. So, unless you really are trying to help someone, it doesn't matter whether or not you are right if you are not loving, so shut up. If we all lived by this idea, we would have a huge impact on this world. If we do not, then we will just drive people away from Christ.*