

## Not Ashamed of the Gospel

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, *“The just shall live by faith.”*

## Introduction

In an New book written Albert Mohler entitled **“The Gathering Storm, Religious Liberty and the Right to be Christian”**

A new and unprecedented right is now the central focus of legal, procedural, and cultural concern in many corridors — a supposed right not to be offended. The cultural momentum behind this purported “right” is growing fast, and the logic of this movement has taken hold in many universities, legal circles, and interest groups.

The larger world received a rude introduction to the logic of offendedness when riots broke out in many European cities, prompted by a Dutch newspaper’s publishing of cartoons that reportedly mocked the Prophet Muhammad. The logic of the riots was that Muslims deserved never to be offended by any insult, real, or perceived, directed to their belief system.

Unthinking Christians may fall into the same pattern of claiming offendedness whenever we face opposition to our faith or criticism of our beliefs. The risk of being offended is simply part of what it means to live in a diverse culture that honors and celebrates free speech. A right to free speech means a right to offend, otherwise the right would need no protection.

These days, it is the secularists who seem to be most intent on pushing a proposed right never to be offended by confrontation with the Christian gospel, Christian witness, or Christian speech and symbolism. This motivation lies behind the incessant effort to remove all symbols, representations, references, and images related to Christianity from the public square. The very existence of a large cross, placed on government property as a memorial, outside San Diego, California, became a major issue in the courts, and now in Congress. Those pressing for the removal of the cross claim that they are offended by the fact that they are forced to see this Christian symbol from time to time.

We should note carefully that this notion of offendedness is highly emotive in character. In other words, those who now claim to be offended are generally speaking of an emotional state that has resulted from some real or perceived insult to their belief system or from contact with someone else's belief system. In this sense, being offended does not necessarily involve any real harm but points instead to the

fact that the mere presence of such an argument, image, or symbol evokes an emotional response of offendedness. The distinguished Christian philosopher Paul Helm addresses this issue in an article published in the summer 2006 edition of the *Salisbury Review*, published in Great Britain. As Helm argues, “Historically, being offended has been a very serious matter. To be offended is to be caused to stumble so as to fall, to fail, to apostatize, to be brought down, to be crushed.” As evidence for this claim, Helm points to the language of the King James Bible in which Jesus says to his disciples: “And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell” (Matt 5:29). Likewise, Jesus also speaks a warning against those who would “offend” the “little ones.” Helm summarizes, “So to ‘offend’ in this robust sense is to be an agent of destruction. And to be offended is to be placed in desperate straits.”

The desperate straits are no longer required in order for an individual or group to claim the emotional status of offendedness. This shift in the meaning of the word and in its cultural usage is subtle but extremely significant. Offering a rather robust definition of this new usage, Helm describes this new notion of offendedness as “that one is offended when the words and actions of another produce a feeling of hurt, or shame, or humiliation on account of what is said of oneself about one’s deepest attachments.”

Helm's definition is rather generous, offering more substantial content to this modern notion than may be present in the claims of many persons. Many persons who claim to be offended are speaking merely of the vaguest notion of emotional distaste at what another has said, done, proposed, or presented. This leads to inevitable conflict. "People have always been upset by insensitivity and negligence, but the profile of offendedness, understood in this modern sense, is being immeasurably heightened," he suggests. "The right never to be offended, never to suffer feelings of hurt or shame, is being touted and promoted both by the media and by the government and interest in it is being continually excited." us, "claims to be hurt or shamed are noticed. They are likely to be rewarded."

The very idea of civil society assumes the very real possibility that individuals may at any time be offended by another member of the community. Civilization thrives when individuals and groups seek to minimize unnecessary offendedness, while recognizing that some degree of real or perceived offendedness is the cost the society must pay for the right to enjoy the exchange of ideas and the freedom to speak one's mind.

Professor Helm is surely right when he argues that the "social value" of offendedness is now increasing. All that is necessary for a claim to be taken seriously is for the claim to be offered. After all, if the essence of the offendedness is

an emotional state or response, how can any individual deny that a claimant has been genuinely offended? Helm is right to worry that this will lead to the fracturing of society.

We all hear things we don't like said about people and causes that we are fond of but in the changed social atmosphere we are being encouraged to give public notice if such language offends us. I am now being repeatedly told that I am entitled not to be offended. So from now on— not offended is what I intend to be. Does this heightening of sensitivity make for social cohesion? Does not such cohesion depend rather on enduring what we don't like, and doing so in an adult way? Does not the glue of civic peace rest on such intangibles as the ability to laugh at oneself, to take a joke about even the deepest things? And is it not a measure of the strength of a person's religion that they tolerate the unpleasant conversation of others? Isn't playing the offendedness card going to result in an enfeebling of the culture, the development of oversensitive and precious members of the 'caring society'? Whatever happened to toleration?

Given our mandate to share the gospel and to speak openly and publicly about Jesus Christ and the Christian faith, Christians must understand a particular responsibility to protect free speech and to resist this culture of offendedness that threatens to shut down all public discourse.

Of course, the right for Christians to speak publicly about Jesus Christ necessarily means that adherents of other

belief systems will be equally able to present their truth claims in an equally public manner. This is simply the cost of religious liberty .

An interesting witness to this point is Salman Rushdie, the novelist who was once put under a Muslim sentence of death because he had insulted Muslim sensibilities in his novel *The Satanic Verses*. Rushdie presents an argument that Christians must take seriously.

“ The idea that any kind of free society can be constructed in which people will never be offended or insulted is absurd. So too is the notion that people should have the right to call on the law to defend them against being offended or insulted. A fundamental decision needs to be made: do we want to live in a free society or not? Democracy is not a tea party where people sit around making polite conversation. In democracies people become extremely upset with each other. They argue vehemently against each other’s positions,” Rushdie insists.

the novelist continues: “People have the fundamental right to take an argument to the point where somebody is offended by what they say. It is no trick to support the free speech of somebody you agree with or to whose opinion you are indifferent. The defense of free speech begins at the point where people say something you can’t stand. If you can’t defend their right to say it, then you don’t believe in free speech. You only believe in free speech as long as it doesn’t get up your nose.”

As the Apostle Paul made clear in writing to the Corinthians, the preaching of the gospel has always been

considered offensive by those who reject it. When Paul spoke of the cross as “foolishness” and a “stumbling block” (1 Cor 1:23), he was pointing to this very reality— a reality that would lead to his own stoning, flogging, imprisonment, and execution. At the same time, Paul did not want to offend persons on the basis of anything other than the cross of Christ and the essence of the Christian gospel. For this reason, he would write to the Corinthians about becoming “all things to all people, that by all means I might save some” (1 Cor 9:22).

Without doubt, many Christians manage to be offensive for reasons other than the offense of the Gospel. This is to our shame and to the injury of our gospel witness.

Nevertheless, there is no way for a faithful Christian to avoid offending those who are offended by Jesus Christ and his cross. The truth claims of Christian , by their very particular and exclusive , are inherently offensive to those who would demand some other gospel.

Christians must not only contend for the preservation and protection of free speech — essential for the cause of the gospel — we must also make certain that we do not fall into the trap of claiming offendedness for ourselves. We must not claim a right not to be offended, even as we must insist that there is no such right and that the social construction of such a right will mean the death of individual liberty , free speech, and the free exchange of ideas.

Once we begin playing the game of offendedness, there is no end to the matter. There simply is no right not to be

offended, and we should be offended by the very notion that such a right could exist.

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With all this talk about offendedness, the one person that has been excluded from it is that we have offended God. Our Sin is Offensive to His Holiness.

Charles Wesley wrote a hymn titled  
“God, the Offended Most High”

The Reality of Cross of Christ, His Substitutionary Death Does speak volumes about the Love of God For you. But it also speaks as much about the magnitude of your Wickedness.

That it would take the slaughter of Jesus Christ to Satisfy God so that He does not Kill you should help you understand just how much your sin offended God.

“There is something worse than an empty church, and that is an offended God.”

– *Ian Paisley*

Now my Goal is to be as clear as possible about the most important message on this planet.



I don't want to be like the politician who left his speech saying, now I hope I was clear in speech so they could understand me.

## **Lesson**

### **I. The Problem**

### **II. The Power**

### **III. The Procedure**

### **IV. The Position**

### **I. The Problem**

#### **A. The Condition**

#### **Romans 3:10–18 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> As it is written:

*“There is none righteous, no, not one;*

<sup>11</sup> *There is none who understands;*

*There is none who seeks after God.*

<sup>12</sup> *They have all turned aside;*

*They have together become unprofitable;*

*There is none who does good, no, not one.”*

- 13 *“Their throat is an open tomb;  
With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;  
“The poison of asps is under their lips”;*  
14 *“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”*  
15 *“Their feet are swift to shed blood;*  
16 *Destruction and misery are in their ways;*  
17 *And the way of peace they have not known.”*  
18 *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

I read recently, in a book by Ravi Zacharias, about the dominating energy and misguided passion in the life of Joseph Stalin. Ravi was in the home of Malcolm Muggeridge, a brilliant journalist of the twentieth century, who relayed an event to Ravi.

Muggeridge said that, on one occasion, he was visited by Svetlana Stalin, sometime after the death of her father, Joseph. On three different occasions, during her prolonged visit, Svetlana talked of her father's death. Stalin was a small man, about five-foot-four, and not very imposing. However, he was a man of steel in terms of personal godless ambition. His daughter wanted to know if Muggeridge could explain why her father had done something very peculiar on his deathbed.

Svetlana said that just before Stalin died, he sat up in his bed, clenched his fists towards the heavens, then threw himself back on his pillow and died. Muggeridge explained her father's hatred of God and His Word. Stalin had followed other leaders who constantly shook their fists, as it were, in the face of God. Stalin himself, obliterated fifteen million of his own people who refused the communist party line. On his deathbed, the man who called himself “steel,” or “Stalin,” which was not his given name, shook

his fist in the face of God and continued to reject the truth of heaven. (Wisdom online)

### **Romans 3:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

### **Romans 3:22–23 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;  
<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

### **Galatians 3:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

## **B. The Condemnation**

### **Temporal Wrath**

#### **Romans 1:18–21 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

### **John 3:36 (NKJV)**

<sup>36</sup> He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

### **Romans 6:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Apocalyptic and Eternal Wrath**

### **Matthew 3:7 (NKJV)**

### ***The Preaching of John the Baptist***

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

### **1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come.**

### **Hebrews 10:26–27 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

Hebrews 10:31 (NKJV)

<sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

### **2 Thessalonians 1:7–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and

from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

## **Revelation 6:12–17 (NKJV)**

### ***Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances***

<sup>12</sup> I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

<sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

<sup>14</sup> Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

<sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

## **Revelation 20:11–15 (NKJV)**

### ***The Great White Throne Judgment***

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away.

And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

### **Quotes from Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God**

- 1 “...there is hell’s wide gaping mouth open; and you have nothing to stand upon, nor anything to take hold of; there is nothing between you and the Hell but the;...”
- 2 “...if God should let you go, you would immediately sink and swiftly descend plunge into the bottomless gulf, and your healthy constitution, and your own care and prudence, and best contrivance, and all your righteousness, would have no more influence to uphold you and keep you out of Hell, than a spider’s web would have stop a fallen rock.”
- 3 “...the Dams of God’s vengeance have been withheld; but your guilt in the meantime is constantly increasing, and you are every day treasuring up more wrath...”

- 4 “If God should only withdraw his hand from the floodgate, it would immediately fly open, and the fiery floods of fierceness and wrath of God, would rush forth with inconceivable fury.”
- 5 “The bow of God’s wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready to string and justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow, and it is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood.”

## **II. The Power**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God

### **A. The Man**

gospel of Christ

Christ is the the gospel. His perfect life and perfect Death and Resurrection are the foundation and Substance of the Gospel.

**John 3:16–17 (NKJV)**



<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

### **Romans 5:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **John 14:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

## **B. The Message**

### the gospel of Christ

It is the message, not the man deliveraring it or the method used to communicate it.

The Message has the power, The Holy Spirit uses the message

### **1 Corinthians 2:1–6 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the

testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

<sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

### **Romans 10:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

## **III. The Procedure**

for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes

### **A. The Futility**

False Faith

#### **John 8:30–31 (NKJV)**

<sup>30</sup> As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**”

#### **Colossians 1:21–23 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled <sup>22</sup> in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

**Matthew 24:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

## B. The Faith

What is genuine Faith

1. It continues in the Word

**John 8:30–31 (NKJV)**

<sup>30</sup> As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

**Colosians 1:**<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,

**James 2:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

2. It endures Persecution

**Matthew 24:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

### 3. If Forsakes all to Trust Christ

#### **Luke 14:26–27 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. <sup>27</sup> And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

#### **Matthew 24:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

## IV. The Position

<sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “*The just shall live by faith.*”

### A. Imputation

**2 Corinthians 5:18–6:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

## **B. Justification**

### **Romans 5:1–2 (NKJV)**

**5** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

### **Romans 3:20–26 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no

difference; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Of This Great Gospel, Paul was not ashamed. Unwilling to compromise the smallest detail of truth in order to win a Crowd, He preached Christ and Him Crucified.

You are probably familiar with Christian "T shirts" with the logo "**FOTU**" (Fellowship of the Unashamed), which stands for "fellowship of the unashamed" which summarizes the credo below...

I am a part of the fellowship of the Unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit Power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need

preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, back up, let up, or shut up until I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes.

And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear for "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.." ([Romans 1:16](#)) (Reported to have been written by Bob Moorehead)