

## “The Cross and Offense” - I Cor. 1:17-31; Matthew 24:10

### 1. The Offense of the Cross

It is an “emblem of suffering and shame” - What if we all wore gilloteens around our necks?

Charles Spurgeon: “And yet, strange to say, gentle as the gospel is, and inoffensive as its professors have always proved themselves to be, when they have acted rightly, — not resisting evil, but submitting to it, whatever it might be, — yet there has never been anything which has caused more disturbance in the world than the Christian religion. It is not a sword, and yet it has brought war into the world; it is not a fire, and yet it has consumed many old institutions, and has burned much that men thought would last for ever; it is the gospel of peace, and yet it has parted the dearest friends, and caused direst feuds and confusions everywhere...Strange, yet strangely true is it, that the cross of Christ has always been an offense, and that it has provoked the fiercest battles and the sternest strifes which men have ever had with their fellow-men.”

Why? - a. Makes foolish the wisdom of the world - Christ's Kingdom is upside-down  
b. Condemns the world of sin - men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil

### 2. Carry the Cross

If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Lk 9:23).  
“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple” (Lk 14:27).

John Piper: “Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us—a crucified God—must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world.”

When we decide to believe in Jesus without making a commitment to follow Him,  
we become nothing more than fans.- *Kyle Idleman*

*Lay down the sword of doctrines and arguments,  
the shield of your separate self, your privileged security,  
and take up the the cross of Christ,  
the risk and vulnerability of the Gospel,  
the courage to confront injustice and embody healing,  
the love of God, weak, naked and tender in this world,  
and more powerful than a hundred armies.*

Steve Garnaas Holmes

3. **Don't Carry Offense** Proverbs 18:19 (NLT) “An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city.  
Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.”

“Many are unable to function properly in their calling because of the wounds and hurts that offenses have caused in their lives. They are handicapped and hindered from fulfilling their full potential. Most often it is a fellow believer who has hurt them.”

— John Bevere, [The Bait of Satan: Living Free from the Deadly Trap of Offense](#)

- a. Introspection
- b. Dissection
- c. Interaction
- d. Reconciliation