

Ezekiel 38:1-23

Grace **isn't** for the **deserving**.

Choosing **not to take offense** is **not** about **ignoring wrongs**.

You can address the situation. You don't have to simply accept it.
But you can act without contempt, anger, and bitterness.

1 Cor. 4:3-5

I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

We have no idea what is in someone else's heart.
We don't know the backstory.
We don't know what's happening in his mind.
We think we do, sure, but we don't.

God knows others' private motives. We don't.
God knows our private motives. We don't.
We think we can judge others' motives. We're wrong.

When there are two "sides" to a story, we tend to think the first one we hear is the right one.

Proverbs 18:17: "The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him"

And since we don't know, let's choose ahead of time: we're just not going to get offended.

God sees things we don't. He must, because He hasn't vaporized us yet.

Deciding "I'm not going to let people offend me" will make for a far more restful life.

Quit trying to parent the whole world.
Quit being shocked when people don't share your morality.
Quit serving as judge and jury, in your own mind.
Quit thinking you need to "discern" what others' motives are.
Quit rehearsing in your mind what that other person did to you.
It's all so exhausting.

When you're living in the reality of the forgiveness you've been extended, you just don't get angry with others easily.

See the human heart for what it is, adjust expectations, and be grateful, not angry.

The fish in this display are all native to the South Pacific Ocean. We have removed the predators, so you can observe the fish relating in peace as they do in nature."

We can play pretend and try to set up an aquarium-type existence, devoid of interaction with anything or anyone who might challenge or upset us, but that's not the world Jesus came to save.

Romans 4:17

Who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The ability to look at that highly offensive someone and see what is not yet, as though it were. We're made for it, so we'll find it both exhausting and exhilarating.

God does become angry — angry at sin, angry at injustice, angry at rebellion.

Ephesians 4:26

Be angry and do not sin.

What Is Righteous Anger?

1. Righteous anger is directed toward things that anger God.
2. Righteous anger mirrors the way God is angry.
3. Righteous anger submits to God's role as ultimate judge.

What Is Outrage? Outrage is disproportionate.

Outrage is selfish.

Outrage is divisive.

Outrage is visceral.

Outrage is domineering.

Outrage is dishonest.

Ezekiel 38

23 Then they will know that I am the Lord.