

March Devotional: Offended? by Jerry Furniss

Isn't the world getting more fragmented and unruly? Are you feeling offended? I know that I am really feeling that way lately. Doesn't it seem that one day recently, for no particular reason, the whole world just became offended by everything. Just name it. There is division, blame, opinion, rights, feelings, and laws all of which are being ignored, stepped on, and/or abused in every aspect of life. We see it in politics, religion, race, patriotism, sports, nationalism, finances, crime, etc. Even in some of the things we hold as truth in our own personal beliefs.

Well, as a Christian, you are right to be offended. However, you must understand this:

"In the last days there will be violent periods of time. People will be selfish and love money. They will brag, be arrogant, and use abusive language. They will curse their parents, show no gratitude, have no respect for what is holy, and lack normal affection for their families. They will refuse to make peace with anyone. They will be slanderous, lack self-control, be brutal, and have no love for what is good. They will be traitors. They will be reckless and conceited. They will love pleasure rather than God. They will appear to have a godly life, but they will not let God's power change them. Stay away from such people." (II Timothy 3: 1-5)

We should instead congregate with like-minded people. Perhaps, like Paul, we must endure these persecutions:

"But you know all about my teachings, my way of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance. You also know about the kind of persecutions and sufferings which happened to me in the cities of Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. I endured those persecutions, and the Lord rescued me from all of them. Those who try to live a godly life because they believe in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (II Timothy 3: 10-12)

However, unlike the worldly, you can remain true by following the truth:

"But evil people and phony preachers will go from bad to worse as they mislead people and are themselves misled. However, continue in what you have learned and found to be true. You know who your teachers were. From spiritual infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures. They have the power to give you wisdom so that you can be saved through faith in Christ Jesus. Every Scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval. They equip God's servants so that they are completely prepared to do good things." (II Timothy 3: 13-17)

When we see the broken and fragmented parts of the world around us, its not surprising that we are offended. Yet, let's just concentrate on living in harmony with His truth and on loving all God's people everywhere, despite our own selfish thoughts? Love unites, not divides.

* Previous monthly devotionals can be found at <http://crosskeyschurch.org> under the heading Ministries, then Prayer Devotionals.

* If you wish to place a prayer request on the e-mail prayer chain, please use the following e-mail address: prayerlist@crosskeyschurch.org.