

Recalculating

Charting a Different Course in a Perpetually Offended Nation

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9 (NLT)

If I want to recalculate, choosing offense and choosing peace are within my power.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5 (NIV)

- Meekness is NOT: Weakness

- Meekness IS: Strength under control

If I Am Truly a Christ-Follower, I'm in the Driver's Seat of My Own Reactions:

1. When someone disappoints me.

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. Romans 14:1 (NIV)

I can choose to be gentle, not judgmental.

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7 (NIV)

As a follower of Jesus, I can accept and love someone without approving of their lifestyle choices.

2. When someone disagrees with me.

"You never fight a battle where winning doesn't make any difference. Don't get into an argument over something that doesn't matter anyway." - Gen. George S. Patton

I can choose to be tender, without surrender.

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. ...the mouth of a fool belches out foolishness.

Proverbs 15:1-2 (NLT)

"We should be too big to take offense, and too noble to give it." - Abraham Lincoln

I can disagree, without being disagreeable.

*Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone... patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. **2 Timothy 2:23-25 (NLT)***

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...
James 1:19 (NIV)

3. When someone hurts me.

*God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control. **2 Timothy 1:7 (NCV)***

"I will never allow another man to control or ruin my life by making me hate him." - Booker T. Washington

I can choose to be an actor, not a reactor.

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:17, 21 (NIV)***

"When there is a gap between what you expect and what you get, you choose what goes in the middle."
- Andy Stanley

When you follow the DESIREs of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living

that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us FOLLOW the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Galatians 5:19-25 (NLT)

Deeper and deeper I sink into the mire; I can't find a foothold... the floods overwhelm me. I am exhausted from crying... My eyes are swollen with weeping... Those who hate me without cause outnumber the hairs on my head. Many enemies try to destroy me with lies, ...humiliation is written all over my face. Even my own brothers pretend they don't know me... they scoff at me... they make fun of me. I am the favorite topic of town gossip... But I keep praying to you, LORD... Psalm 69:2-13 (NLT)

The Times I Feel Most Offended Are the Times I Need to Trust God the Most.