



TOGETHER

May 23, 2021 | Wisdom for Relationships from the Book of Proverbs (Part 5) | Reggie Roberson

WARM-UP QUESTION: When was the last time you were offended by someone?

READ: Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)

FOCUS: We must have good sense to overlook offense.

OBSERVE:

How can we practice good sense?

By seeking to understand others' intentions.

- The fear or reverence of God reminds us that we are not God, and that we don't always know the motives and intents of people. Therefore, we should seek to fully understand a person's intentions before getting angry, insulted, or offended.
- When we are slow to anger and seek to understand others' intentions, we can gain the insight and time needed for a perceived hurt to wear off.

By remembering who we are in Christ.

- Our identity is not determined by insults, mistreatment, or being overlooked by others. If we put our faith in Jesus, God has the final say about who we are.
- Knowing we are loved and accepted by God despite our weaknesses gives us the security we need to overcome offense.

By never forgetting the gospel.

- You may ask, *what if a person intended to hurt you?* Proverbs 19:11 says, "it is to one's glory to overlook an offense." The good sense that comes from fearing or honoring the Lord allows us to see moments of offense as opportunities to grow and allow God to conform us to His image.
- In other words, when we overlook an offense, we are doing what God does with us all the time. We would all be dead right now if God chose to repay us what we deserve. However, God is slow to anger and longsuffering, as He describes to Moses in Exodus 34:6.
- The gospel gives us the good sense to acknowledge offense but to suspend judgment and forgive, just as Jesus did for us on the cross. When we suspend our judgement, we trust God to be Judge and allow Him to determine a person's end.

REFLECT:

- Are you holding an offense against anyone?
- How does having good sense help you overlook an offense?

TAKE ACTION:

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you if you are harboring offense against anyone. Consider how God has extended grace and forgiveness to you and then do the same for that person.

PRAY:

God, thank You for sending Jesus to extend us grace and mercy. Please help us to do the same with those around us. We pray that we would be slow to anger and bring You glory by overlooking offenses. Amen.