

THE AGE OF OFFENCE

9/8/20

*People responding poorly to facts that they don't want to hear, is a rapidly escalating problem... both in this world and sadly is also within God's church. There is a certain reality about unwelcome words... **HEB 4:12** For the word of God is quick (life giving), and powerful very effectual), and sharper than any twoedged sword (completely divides by a single stroke), piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints (linking parts) and marrow (internal source of bodily defence), and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. The truths revealed in God's words trigger the way we think and act. Scriptural truths can be seen pleasantly or offensively, then choices are made by each individual.*

*There is a very positive reality for those who learn to love all of God's truths. **PRO 2:10** When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; **11 Discretion** (purpose) shall preserve thee, **understanding** shall keep thee: **12** To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things (spiritually unreasonable); Lack of discernment leads to division and disaster.*

*The church and the world are both facing rapid growth in these opposing forces. **MAT 24:10** And then (later days) shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. **11** And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. **12** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. Remember, the biggest enemies of the church come from within... see antichrist verses (1JOH 2:19).*

*Paul offered the solution for all churches; right from the beginning. **1COR 1:4** I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; **5** That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge (accumulated through God's word); **6** Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you (God's words are proven with evidence rather than feelings): **7** So that (the reason why God confirms what he says) ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: The spiritual gifts give us access to God's power. This is one of the greatest solutions that God offers us, helping us to keep overcoming and to assist others who wish to find or serve the Lord.*

*Can't give you the meat until you are ready to digest it. **1COR 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. **2** I have fed you with milk (milk is for those who cannot feed themselves properly), and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. **3** For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? **4** For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? These verses were pointing out spiritual realities... they were words of encouragement, not insults. Some would have been painfully offended by his views, because they had limited their desire to absorb spiritual truths. Most spiritual truths reveal our failed humanity and personal biases, despite our best efforts.*

**Motivation to seek the Voice Gifts... they teach us to edify others. This unifies us into a common spiritual mindset and minimises the types of divisions that were numerous in the Corinthian church (1Cor 14).*

*We are empowered to subdue the natural, so the spiritual can get stronger. **2 COR 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (the solution is simple... even though many spiritual principles maybe complicated). **4** For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. **5** For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles. **6** But though I be rude (uneducated) in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.*

*The most difficult problem we face is to turn our offences and biases into blessings. **2COR 12:15** And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved. **GAL 4:16** Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? We are putting this same pressure on others as well, but it is a Godly awakening that is causing the stress. The solution is listed in the following verse...*

***2COR 7:10** For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. **11** For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter. We can make an effort to minimise the offences we might cause, but we have total control over the offences we take. Paul could handle the personal offences, but he struggled with people undermining the church and the weaker ones within it. God certainly takes no pleasure in those that cause others to stumble.*