

Whole Families



Whole Families, Inc.
wholefamilies@gmail.com
www.wholefamilieswestcliffe.com
719-783-2545 or 2525
P. O. Box 1136
Westcliffe Colorado 81252

For your convenience donations can be made thru wholefamilies newly revised website.

Bait Satan Uses To Trap Christians

Many Christians feel justified in taking up offenses or remaining offended, it's a sin and the enemy's trap. Look closely at the deadliness of becoming offended here in Luke 17:1.

Scripture: "Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no **offenses** should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!" Luke 17:1 NKJV

Prayer: Lord, give us ears to hear what you are teaching us, vigilantes to recognize all bait, traps, and stumbling blocks placed in our way, and urgency to repent of offenses for bait we have already taken!

Offense is the Trigger to Trap Us

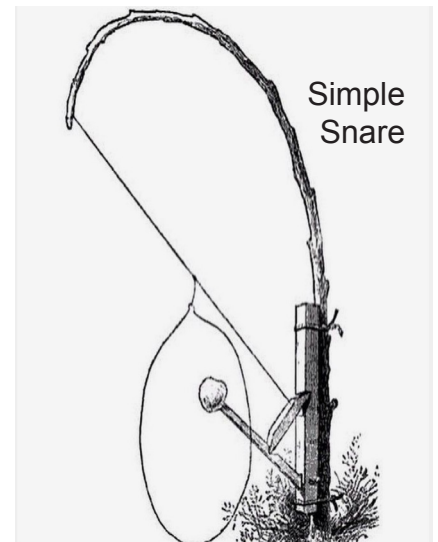


Live Trap

See the trigger or "skandalon" on which the bait is attached.

Trigger & bait are strategically designed & placed by the trapper to be most successful.

The trap is sprung; notice the skandalon & ball of bait showing through the noose of the snare.



Simple Snare

Strong's Concordance Hebrew Word for **Offenses** is skandalon, Noun, probably from a derivative of (2578) ("**scandal**;" a derivative of ; a trap-stick (bent sapling), i.e. snare (figuratively, cause of displeasure or sin) occasion to fall (of stumbling), offence, thing that offends, stumblingblock.

1. the movable stick or trigger of a trap, a trap stick
1. a trap, snare
2. any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall, (a stumbling block, occasion of stumbling) i.e. a rock which is a cause of stumbling
3. fig. applied to **Jesus Christ, whose person and career were so contrary to the expectations of the Jews concerning the Messiah, that they rejected him and by their obstinacy made shipwreck of their salvation**
2. **any person or thing** by which one is entrapped drawn into error or sin



Deadfall Trap

What are Causes of an Offense

- A person can be the cause of an offense.
- An event such as the death of a loved one can be the cause
- Illness can be the cause.
- An emotionally painful event can be the cause.
- Sometimes we can blame God or become offended at God

“This causes us numbness and deafness so we cannot hear his still small voice.
We must repent of being offended to hear him again.”

God cannot tempt or be tempted explain James 1:13-15; “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” James 1:13-15 NKJV

This Bait/Trigger of Offense is One of Satan’s Favorite Traps

- **It is used often in the body of Christ!** He will try to get a scandal or divisive gossip started and then tempt individuals to take the bait and become offended.
 - **Used in marriage** as well.
 - A well known military tactic is; **divide and conquer**. Satan knows it also. Offense is one of the enemy tools to cause division.
 - When you stumble, become offended, or bitter you are then **caught in error or sin**.

“If I am bitter or unforgiving to my neighbor I am demanding a higher standard of forgiveness than God requires of me . . . and therefore is sin.”

- The biblical standard of forgiveness is explained in Colossians 3:13 “bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; **even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.**” NKJV
- Holding someone else to the **higher standard** is explained in Matthew 18:28 “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.” NKJV
- Besides being “sin” **bitterness** causes the unforgiving one to be locked in the **tormentors prison**. “Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?” And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” Matthew 18:33-35 NKJV
- A little **child** can become seriously **offended by an adult** (as in sexual abuse) this offense can last for much or all of that persons life opening the door to much more sin. This is dealt with in Luke 17:2 “It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.” NKJV

Release from the Trap

- To become **offended and thus bitter** springs the trigger on the trap.
- **You are now caught.**
- The only way out is for someone from the **outside to release you**.
- Christ provided that way out by offering and demonstrating **genuine forgiveness!**

You must let them off your hook. But remember they will remain on Gods hook.
He will treat them fairly, something we cannot do while in unforgiveness.
Forgiving is also agreeing to live with the consequences of another person’s sin.

- You can also trip the Skandalon (trigger) if you **take up an offense against the offender (third party) of someone close to you or a loved one**. Example; If I become offended at someone who hurt my wife. Then I have taken the bait and tripped the trigger on myself for her offense. My wife and her offender could work out their differences without my knowledge and I still be offended. The only way out of that trap is for me to forgive her offender as though they had offended me personally. You can use the prayer listed below.
- Strong’s # for **the Word Forgive**, 863 Greek aphīēmi, a Verb, pronounced afee’aymee, from (575) and hiemi (to send, an intens. form of eimi, to go) from and hiemi (to send; an intensive form of eimi, to go); to send forth, in various applications (as follow):--cry, forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, suffer, yield up.

Things to Remember

- Offenses “shall come” but you have the choice whether you take the bait or not!
Another way to say the same thing is “offenses will surly come” but you choose whether you become offended or not.
- Don’t be tricked into becoming offended in any event of life especially in church!
 - When tempted with the trap “choose unity instead”.
- Repent of being offended at yourself or continuing to regret failures through your life!
 - Repent of taking up any offense against a third party.
 - Repent of any thinking that God is to blame!
 - Quickly forgive everyone you have offense against in your heart.
- Take all of your hurt to God for him to remove them from you and replace it with His presence and His peace!
- Determine not to become offended or not to hang on to offense for more than a few minutes before you fully forgive.

Pain Word Sheet

There is a pain list of several hundred words available for asking if you would like or take a sheet of paper and think of and write down every word describing the pain they have made you feel. Write a separate list for each name involved.

List The Baits You Have Already Taken

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Lord, I have become offended because of this person/people/situation _____ and or _____ events in my life. I have taken the bait by becoming bitter. I understand I now release each offense by genuine biblical forgiveness.

I asked that you take all of the pain that each has caused me off of the list of what I believe they owe me and move it to my debt for me to pay.

I now choose to forgive them in the same way you first forgave me.

“I owed a debt I could not pay, you paid my debt, a debt you did not owe as you forgave me.” Lord, have I now fully forgiven each of them in the same way as you have forgiven me?