***The Offense Of The Cross***

Galatians 5:11; 3:13; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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**Introduction**

1. As discussed in previous lessons the cross today has a much different meaning than it did in the first-century. The cross was like our gas chamber or electric chair. It was not used in polite conversation.
2. The cross is still an offense today. The cross confronts our pride, our selfishness, and our stubbornness...
3. **An Offense To Our Mind**
   1. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
      1. The cause of sin is pride and modern man is very proud of himself. We love to promote our intelligence as did the Greeks who saw the cross as utter non-sense. In Acts 17 on Mars hill they laughed at the idea of a crucified savior risen from the dead.
      2. The cross violates the mind of man. To the Greeks it was foolishness and the Jews a stumbling block. Both see the cross as weakness and this offends them.
4. **An Offense To Our Heart**
   1. Luke 19:10; Matthew 9:11-13
      1. Not only does the cross insult the wisdom of man but the heart of man. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). We don’t like to admit need or that we need saving because we like being self-righteous (Matthew 18:23ff).
      2. The Jews knew the heathen, the Samaritans, and Gentiles were lost but not themselves. They think salvation is for others but not me! The cross either breaks our hearts so we see our need for Jesus or it hardens our hearts.
5. **An Offense To Our View Of Death**
   1. Matthew 16:13-23
      1. Peter got a 100 on his quiz about the identity of Jesus. However, Christianity is more than knowing facts. It involves the cross and this was problem to Peter and the disciples. What problem? Death!
      2. Peter tempts Jesus to skip the cross because death is defeat and failure (Hebrews 2:14-15).
6. **An Offense To The Sin In Us**
   1. 2 Corinthians 4:10; Galatians 2:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:31
      1. Why is there offense in the cross? Because the cross contradicts our sinful, selfish and stubborn nature. It exposes our hearts and condemns all sinners.
      2. No one can be neutral at the cross! It is either an offense or our glory! Do you glory only in the cross?