

Elder Bobby Willis



Sharing The Good News: *Does It Offend You?*

We are living in a day and time when apparently it offends many if you bring up the name of Jesus Christ. It is sad where we have come in our society. There are organizations of men who do not even allow the name of Jesus to be used as it may offend someone. In God We Trust is being removed from a number of usages because some minority group says it offends them, yet this country was founded on Godly principles. Prayers have been removed from our schools and sporting events, and on and on.

Jesus made this statement in Matthew 11:6 as he closed His remarks to John after John had asked if Christ was the one that should come (the Messiah) or did they need to look for another, **“And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me”** (Matthew 11:6-Luke 7:23). All of us, as professed followers of Christ, need to be careful that our actions do not indicate our being offended in Him. Peter said this, **“Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended”** (Matthew 26:33). How soon Peter forgot for it was not long after that he denied even knowing the Lord. When we refrain from using the name of Jesus or Christ in the presence of others because we may cause offense, we then have offended the very one we profess to love.

Think of it this way! We walk into a restaurant with our wife or husband and run into a co-worker. Instead of introducing them as our wife or husband, we just say *‘here, I want you to meet my friend.’* Now, a friend is a wonderful thing to have, but you have just denied your relationship to your companion and highly offended them. When we fail to let others know of our love of Christ and refuse openly to use His wonderful, blessed name because we fear we may offend, is denying our love for the Lord. This is not to be taken lightly.

How serious is it when we are afraid of offending someone by using the name of Jesus around them? Christ said, **“But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven”** (Matthew

10:33). How very depressing it is for our intercessor (Christ) to deny us before the Father and then we lose the felt presence of the Spirit of God. Peter denied the Lord thrice, just as Jesus had said he would. The end result is what we should be trying to avoid. When the event of Peter denying the Lord was over, please take notice of the result. **“And when he thought thereon, he wept”** (Mark 14:72). We should never deny or be offended by using the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Think About IT!