

LESSON 3

NO OFFENSE

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1–16



1 What is the most offensive sales pitch that you have ever heard?

2 What was offensive about it?



Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1–16 and the following notes:

☐ 2:1 ☐ 2:4–8 ☐ 2:9 ☐ 2:13 ☐ 2:14 ☐ 2:15, 16

3 What made people in Thessalonica angry (2:14–16)?

4 How did Paul go out of his way to avoid offending people (2:3–12)?

5 What kept Paul's enemies energized in opposing him (2:15, 16)?

Many people in Thessalonica did not like the gospel message. They were offended by it. They did what they could to discredit Paul—insulting, rejecting, and physically abusing the believers. So Paul did what he could to remain blameless—supporting himself financially, speaking gently, never using flattery. But he never altered the message itself. Many people are offended by the gospel. We can alter our method of delivery or the way we communicate so that we don't offend, but we must never alter the message itself.



6 How or why might the gospel be offensive to people?

7 How do Christians sometimes change the message of Christ to make it less offensive?

8 What aspects of sharing the gospel turn off unbelievers?

9 What can a Christian do to avoid these turnoffs without compromising the gospel message?



10 Why do you think people are offended by the gospel?

11 Whom would you like to tell about Christ within the next year?

12 What might be this person's objections to the gospel?

13 How could you answer those objections?

14 What can you do to communicate the gospel better without watering it down?



15 With whom would you like to share your faith but haven't because of your fear that they might be offended by the message?

16 How can you prepare yourself to handle any objections these people may have to the gospel?

A How did the Thessalonians know that Paul and Silas were sincere (2:2, 3)? How do people judge the sincerity of your convictions?

B How or why did Paul's hard work in Thessalonica help his witness (2:9)? In what situations can your work help your witness?

C What price did Paul pay for sharing the gospel (2:2)? How do you react when following Christ costs you some sort of rejection or misunderstanding? What price might you have to pay to bring the message of Christ to others?

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