

## LESSON 16: Concerning Offenses, Faith, and Service

### Luke 17:1-10

October 27, 2021

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## Concerning Offenses

### Luke 17:1-4

Luke 17:1, "And he said unto his disciples, It is impossible but that occasions of stumbling should come; but woe unto him, through whom they come!" cf. Matthew 18:5-7

- *skandalon* (skan'-dal-on) ("scandal"); probably from a derivative of NT:2578; a trap-stick (bent sapling), i.e. snare (figuratively, cause of displeasure or sin): (Strong)

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- **The World Is Filled With Occasions of Stumbling.**
- An immature Christian must be aware that occasions of stumbling come in many forms: False doctrines, Loose morals, Older Christians who are weak or indifferent, Peer pressure from people of the world.

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## Concerning Offenses

### Luke 17:1-4

#### • **Responsibility for Sin**

- The fact that one can become an occasion for another person falling into sin does not excuse that person from the guilt of his sin.
- Should I become an occasion for another person stumbling, he still would be accountable for his sin.
- However, I would be held accountable for my sin – my sin of causing him to stumble.

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## Concerning Offenses

### Luke 17:1-4

Matthew 18:8-9

Luke 17:2, "It were well for him if a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, rather than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble."

- A church is privileged to have newborn Christians. They are babes in Christ (1 Peter 2:2) who are weak and need to grow spiritually (Ephesians 4:14). Watching them grow is encouraging to other Christians (1 Timothy 4:12).

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### Luke 17:1-4

#### **Things Which Cause People to Stumble:**

1. **Evil companions.** The wicked are not content to be involved in sin; they must pull someone down with them. (Proverbs 4:16; cf. 1:10ff)
2. **Indifferent church members.** (Revelation 3:14-15)
3. **Church squabbles.** (Galatians 5:15)
4. **False doctrine.** (Ephesians 4:15; 2 Timothy 2:16ff; Titus 3:10ff; Romans 16:17-18)
5. **Hypocrites in the church.** (Matthew 6:23)
6. **Weak Christians.** (Galatians 2:11-14)

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## Concerning Offenses

### Luke 17:1-4

Luke 17:3-4, "Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother sin, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he sin against thee seven times in the day, and seven times turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."

- "If thy brother sin ..."
- "Rebuke him ..."
- "If he repent ..."
- "forgive him ..."

### "If thy brother sin ..."

#### **Sin is a terrible burden for any to carry.**

- The magnitude of sin is seen in the result of sin. Ezekiel 18:20; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23
- Man cannot pay the debt of sin. cf. Matthew 16:26
- We need the blood of Christ. Romans 3:23-26; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19.
  - Man's need is constant. 1 John 1:8-9

### "If thy brother sin ..."

Two things are clear:

1. Sin is not ignored. Luke 17:3-4
2. If the sinner does repent, we must forgive him, else we cannot receive forgiveness from God ourselves. Matthew 6:14-15

### "Rebuke him ..."

- Reprove him.
  - Go and tell him his fault, and seek an explanation. cf. Matthew 18:15ff
  - Acquaint him with what has been the effect of his conduct, that he may acknowledge his error and repent.

### "If he repent ..."

- *metanoia* – "a change of mind for the better, heartily to AMEND with abhorrence of one's past sins." (Thayer, page 405)
- "This change of mind involves BOTH a turning from sin and a turning to God." (W.E. Vine, Volume 3, page 281)
- "John did not call on people to be sorry, but to change their mental attitudes AND CONDUCT." (A.T. Robertson, Word Pictures, Volume 1, page 24)