

Warnings Against Offenses

Luke 17:1–4

Main Point

Forgive because in Christ you yourself are forgiven.

I. Intentionally lead others to the message of Christ. (17:1–2)

- A. Life contains endless enticements to sin.
 - 1. The word *offense* means “enticement to sin.”
 - 2. Christians will be tempted to sin (whether acts of disobedience to the law of Christ, or through belief in false teaching).
 - 3. Believers must be on their guard (Luke 12:1; Phil. 3:17–19).
- B. God severely judges those who lead others to sin which causes them to stumble on their heavenly journey.
 - 1. The word *woe* is a pronouncement of judgment (cf. Luke 11:43ff).
 - 2. A “millstone” was a large stone used to grind wheat. To tie a large millstone around one’s neck and then be thrown into the sea would ensure drowning. It would be better to end one’s life in such a gruesome way than to face the judgment of God for causing a child of God to sin.
- C. By contrast, Christians lead others to see the beauty of the message of Christ, calling them to “have ears to hear” it (Luke 8:8b, 15, 21; 9:35).

II. Repeatedly forgive others by the grace of Christ. (17:3–4)

- A. God enjoins Christians to confront and forgive those who have sinned against them.
 - 1. Our Lord outlines the process of such confrontations elsewhere (cf. Matt. 18:15–20).
 - 2. Christians confront sin so as to adorn the gospel of Christ before other believers as well as before the world (see, for example, the example of Paul confronting Peter [Gal. 2:11ff]).
- B. The amount of times one must forgive is limitless. Christ has forgiven you, therefore you must forgive in like manner.
 - 1. Christ has forgiven you extravagantly (cf. Matt. 18:21–35).
 - 2. Paul calls believers to forgive because of Christ’s forgiveness (Eph. 4:32). Thus, Christians should not be those who harbor grudges or bitterness.