

CouplesInBloom.com – Don't Fall For This:

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Have you ever felt you 'deserve' to sin after someone sins against you? ...that it is **only fair**? ...maybe so the offender can **feel what it's like**? ...perhaps even thinking, "Maybe they'll be sorry then." This happens in marriages with emotions, thoughts, tones of voice, choice of words, hidden actions, plus many things **withheld / not done**. This is **Satan's voice**, and it may even come through a Christian (so be aware) ⇒ Mark 8:32-33.

Specifically, Satan spoke through Peter who rebuked Jesus Christ for teaching His soon coming suffering, rejection, murder and resurrection ⇒ Mark 8:31. Satanic rebukes are spoken today by Christians, and involve **avoiding the cost of covenant love**. Clearly: **carrying our cross means personal loss...but only temporarily!** ⇒ Mark 8:34-38. Jesus said, 'I will be ashamed of those who live a self-protected life in this adulterous and sinful world instead of **completely disowning their life** for My sake and for the Gospel'.

Mark 8:33 ⇒ human ideas do not accomplish God's will, but God's Word does accomplish God's will ⇒ Isaiah 55:11. Romans 2:4 says ⇒ kindness is what brings repentance and Ephesians 2:16 says ⇒ reconciliation slays enmity (*literally this means: **complete mutual change destroys hostility***). Hebrews 10:30 and Deuteronomy 32:35-36 both say ⇒ God alone is the one to take revenge, if and when He decides it is appropriate.

Without being this clear or honest, satanic rebukes against Jesus Christ, His completed work on the cross, and His people, all teach: "**Christians are entitled to a lifestyle Jesus never taught**" specifically **being offended** ... **a stronghold sin in Christianity today**.

Harboring hurt feelings endlessly employ psychologists and psychiatrists because only **forgiveness heals hurts**. This is why God made **forgiveness mandatory for eternal life** ⇒ Matthew 6:12-25; unforgiveness sends people to hell ⇒ Matthew 18:21-35. Satan effectively teaches unforgiveness which appeals to selfishness and promotes humanism / Godlessness. Everyone hurts God but **His** response is forgiveness ⇒ Romans 4:25. Hurts are unavoidable ⇒ Luke 17:1, everyone hurts others ⇒ James 3:2, but **it is sin to keep it**.

It is sin to stay offended from someone else's sin against us. Psalm 119:165 (KJV) ⇒ "Great peace (*literally* shalom: nothing missing and nothing broken) have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." The word offend *literally* includes actions of others... even being overthrown. **HOW do I get shalom if I am broken?!** By 'loving thy law' which *literally* means affection for the Torah (first five books of the Bible). It is not mere words that help, as Gnosticism teaches. **God empowers those who depend on Scripture**; He is *literally* **on the lookout to make it work for them!** ⇒ Jeremiah 1:12.

We are in relationship when we are hurt: either with God our Healer, **OR** with the pain we worship by not worshipping God. Our life direction reveals which relationship we are in. Jesus asked disciples, "Does this offend you?" ⇒ John 6:61. Some were and left Jesus forever (*literally* walked with Him no more) ⇒ John 6:66, while others realized Jesus was God, despite their feelings ⇒ John 6:68-69. **What will you do if your spouse offends you**: walk with them no more, **in the spirit of divorce?** **Don't fall for this** being offended. Instead, stay in relationship with the Holy Spirit: **openly forgive!** ⇒ Matthew 18:21-22. ♥