



**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**BAGGAGE**  
**Part 1: "The Trap of Offense"**  
**Sermon Small Group Notes**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than

***We all have baggage; some of us just have more years of it.***

**Baggage:** Something we pack or stuff other things into in order to take them with us

**Emotional Baggage:** Unhealthy emotions from our past that encumber one's freedom, progress, or development

**Spiritual Baggage:** Any area of your life that is unresolved, that has been pushed deep inside and hidden and is a **hindrance to your spiritual life and destiny**

***God wants us to leave our baggage behind.***

### [John 8.31, NLT]

*Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.*

### [John 8.36, AMP]

*So if the Son liberates you [makes you free], then you are really and unquestionably free.*

### [Ephesians 4.30-32, VOICE]

*It's time to stop bringing grief to God's Holy Spirit; you have been sealed with the Spirit, marked as His own for the day of rescue. **Banish bitterness, rage and anger, shouting and slander, and any and all malicious thoughts--these are poison.** Instead, be kind and compassionate. Graciously forgive one another just as God has forgiven you through Jesus, the Anointed, Liberating King.*

### The Trap of Offense / Biblical Facts:

1. **Offenses are inevitable.**

### [Luke 17.1]

*Then Jesus said to the disciples, "**It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!**"*

**[Greek]**

*Impossible it is, for offenses not to come.*

**2. Offenses are a trap.**

**Skandalon** = *the trigger of a trap on which the bait is placed, the bait stick*

**3. The trap of offense opens the door to deception.**

**[Matthew 24.8b, 10]**

*Many will be deceived...the love of many will grow cold, **many will be offended** and betray each other and hate one another.*

**4. Offenses are most deeply inflicted by those we are closest to.**

**[Psalm 55.12-15, NIV]**

*If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide. But it is you, a man like myself, **my companion, my close friend**, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshippers.*

**5. Offenses are inevitable; carrying them is a choice!**

**Escaping the Trap:**

**1. Take inventory of current offenses and determine that you will deal with them.**

2. **Guard your freedom by recognizing the traps.**

**[Proverbs 4.23, NLT]**

*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

**[Galatians 5.1]**

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

3. **Practice Pre-emptive forgiveness.** (Position yourself to be the restorer.)

**[2 Corinthians 5.18b-19, NLT]**

*God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. **And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.***

**[Romans 12.17-18, NLT]**

*Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. **Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.***

4. **Go to them.**

**[Matthew 18.15]**

*If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What kind of baggage would you say you carry, the "Trunk," the "Suitcase," or the "Backpack"?**
- 2. We all have some sort of baggage full of hurts and wounds. What are some things in your baggage?**
- 3. Can you identify some baggage that you picked up in your younger years?**
- 4. Have you been able to identify the traps of offense? What might a trap look like?**
- 5. Have you ever lashed out at someone, who didn't deserve it, due to an offense that you picked up from someone else? Would you care to share it with the group? :-)**
- 6. Have you ever picked up someone else's offense? How did that work out for you?**
- 7. What are your thoughts about this statement: "Carrying offenses is a choice"? Why is it so difficult for us to set down offenses?**
- 8. Is there someone you need to talk to this week to ask for forgiveness or that you need to let them know you have been offended? (This one is a prayer point for you not a group discussion.)**