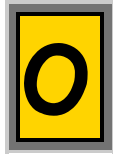


Friendship Deeds, From A-Z



Overlook An Offense

Proverbs 12:16

“Foolish people are easily upset. But wise people pay no attention to hurtful words.”

Offense: n. a lack of politeness; wounding the feelings of another.

Wouldn't it be cool if you had a “Rudeness Remote”? You could use this magic controller anytime you hear or see someone being mean or impolite! By simply pushing a button, a smile would appear instead of the insult. Or you could choose another button that would give a high-pitched “BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE-P” until the rudeness went away. When you're on the soccer field and see a kid trying to trip another one, you just press “Freeze,” and the situation is stopped dead in its tracks. The opportunities would be endless and could successfully rid the world of all rude behavior forEVER!!!!

Unfortunately, this type of device does not exist. Big Bummer! BUT, as God's Kid, you have something to which no remote control could ever compare—the LORD. Psalm 37:40 says, *“The Lord helps them and saves them. He saves them from sinful people because they go to him for safety.”* When others are not nice, it can be hurtful, and when that is the case, the verse at the top says you have two choices: you can be upset, or you can pay no attention to them. Since Jesus is your best friend, He will help you make the right choice, and He is always there to keep you safe when you feel afraid or hurt.

NOW, what if the one offending you claims to be your friend? Go to Matthew 18 for the whole story, but the jist of it lies in these two verses: vs. 15 *“If your brother (Christian friend) sins against you, go to him. Tell him what he did wrong.”* And in vs. 21: *“Peter came to Jesus. He asked, ‘Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times.’”* Your parents can help you sort it all out, but while we are to forgive our friends and overlook their mistakes, we are also to talk to them if it becomes a habit on their part to mistreat us. Isn't it awesome that the Lord gives us advice to live by in our relationships?!?

To overlook an offense pleases the Lord and shows that you are growing in wisdom. To ask for His help in forgiving your friends shows that you are growing in your faith! And there's no remote control in the world cool enough to do that!!!!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

- 1. Are you easily upset by others' words or actions? Pray about this.**
- 2. Do you have any friends who often put you down or call you names? Have you ever told them that it hurts your feelings? Are you ever the one “offending”?**

Is “P” mostly silent or really, really loud? Does he work by himself or in the middle of a crowd?!?