

OFFENCE THROUGH SOUL TIES



Sheila Chater



INTRODUCTION

God has created us as a Triune being. We have a spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Every one of these 3 parts of our lives are very important to God. When they are aligned properly, we will benefit and live in peace and harmony within ourselves, with God and with others.

In Genesis 1, we read all about God creating the universe and everything in it, including mankind. Verse 31 "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." We are created in the beautiful and powerful image of God. We are good – very good!

However, we do have to take care of what God has created for us. We need to look after our spirit, soul and body. The more we do this, the more we can walk in the freedom of God and become the blessing that we are called to be in the world we are living in.

When I first became a Christian, I had to unlearn some of the bad habits or wrong concepts that I had accepted growing up. You see, what we focus on, we will eventually amplify. And the things that we amplify in our mind and heart will become an idol to us.

Over the 30+ years of growing as a Christian, there were times when I had to consciously lay down some wrong thinking patterns and withdraw my attention from those negative things and replace them with my worship for Jesus. I want Jesus to be Lord, so I can come out from whatever that is trying to rob my joy or peace. I am learning to stop partnering with anything that contradicts who God is and what His word is saying. I have a choice!

One of the biggest stumbling blocks I found that I would struggle with, was offences. Over the years, there have been many books and teachings written on "Soul ties." Most of these books and articles have focussed on wrong soul ties, or right soul ties with other people. What the Lord is wanting me to focus on in this book is to share and alert His people on **"Offence through soul ties".**

Offence has been one of the number one causes of church splits, broken families and marriages. Not so long ago, I had a dream of Father telling me to not partner with offense. It came very clearly like He was giving me a strategy. It was not condemning, but I felt very liberated when I woke up.

In this book I will attempt to share some revelation the Lord has given me regarding offence. This is the counsel of our Father to us. It is His solution for us to walk out of the enemy's trap. Let Him bring the healing as well as a change of heart today as you read on.



PART 1 - OFFENCE THROUGH SOUL TIES

Over the years of being in leadership within local churches and ministry, my husband and I have experienced many offences ourselves, as well as watching others fall into offences. The Lord showed us that most of our offences are through soul ties. Many of these offences we have taken up, have nothing to do with ourselves per se. It really is because someone whom we are close to has been offended by another person.

Soul Tie

What is a soul tie? Soul ties are formed when two or more people become bonded together. We have soul ties with friends, with our family members, with our church members, with our colleagues, etc. The Scripture tells that David and Jonathan (1 Sam 18:3-4) had a strong soul tie with one another. So much so, Jonathan would protect David from his father's attack and David would later take Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth into his court to eat with him at his table like one of his sons.

Soul ties have a way of influencing our emotions, and thoughts, regarding people and issues of life. The stronger the soul ties, the stronger the influence will be. Often because of our soul tie with a loved one, we get bogged down by heavy burdens, as we see them suffer physically or emotionally. When we are strongly influenced or affected by our soul tie with another person, we do not see clearly the truth of the matter. We are easily persuaded by that loved one to take his or her side on certain issues, even when we know it is not totally right.

God desires us to love one another, but we are to love Him alone with all of our heart, spirit and soul. Anyone else we allow to take the place of God in our lives, becomes our "idol". From time to time, we need to release people to the Lord, who are "too close" to us emotionally; otherwise it can become dangerous to carry on with that relationship. This person might eventually stand in the way of what God wants to do in us and through us. Let me give you an example by my own testimony and of others:

Testimony

More than 10 years ago, when I first set foot outside my own country and went abroad to a Bible College, I found myself crying each time after I had spoken to my mother over the phone. My mother became a Christian a couple of years before I left for the Bible College. However, I still felt very burdened for her, and would miss her a lot after I had left home. She was also emotionally bound to me. This was hindering my learning and growing time overseas. One night a visiting speaker prayed over me and broke the soul tie between me and my family back home, and asked the Lord to set me free. I wept as though my heart was broken. However, after that night I found myself adjusting much better where I was, and from then onwards the binding I felt emotionally towards my mother was broken. I still love her and care for her, of course, but I no longer felt grief each time after I had spoken to her over the phone. I also learnt that this was a breakthrough I needed from the Lord in preparation for me to be a missionary later, having to leave home most of the time.

Since my new found freedom, my mother and I continued to have a good relationship but it did not feel like a "bondage" to either of us. We were able to pray together, bless each other, and express our love in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. I don't believe I would have been able to respond to the call into the mission fields, if God had not stepped in to set me free from an ungodly soul tie with my mother. My mother has passed on to glory with the Lord. I am thankful that we could mutually bless each other for many years and I have many fond memories of her whenever I think of her now.

A godly soul tie between parents and children can turn into an ungodly one when there is control, abuse or manipulation in that relationship. In my case, I had placed a heavy responsibility on myself to care for my mother that I could not fulfil. I could not take the



place of God in her life. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28 – 30 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” When the ungodly soul tie was broken between me and my mother, I could rest and trust God to look after her while I was far away.

Looking back too, I know that I had often felt offended by people who hurt my mother (including my own father) because of what they did to her, not what they did to me.

Another example, is a testimony of a friend who is married with her own children. She is a very capable and smart woman. Yet she was afraid of her own father. Each time he came to stay with them, she would have the fear of not meeting his expectations of her. One day I shared with her about breaking off the soul tie with her father, so that she would not feel so bound by her relationship with her father. She said a simple prayer and God set her free from this torment. The next time her father came to stay, she did not experience the same fear she had before, and was able to enjoy his company and be herself around him.

These are just a couple of examples to show you how a godly soul tie can possibly turn into an ungodly one. God has an answer for us. Let us now walk through together some of these incidences that are mentioned in the Bible to understand more about this kind of impact upon their lives and actions. Out of understanding, we can partner with God’s principles and find freedom!

PART 2 - ABSALOM AND TAMAR

In 2 Samuel chapter 13, we read about how Amnon, the half-brother of Tamar schemed and raped her because he lusted after her. Absalom was Tamar’s full brother and when this was brought to his attention, he was furious. Absalom went to King David for justice for his sister. Although David, their father was angry with Amnon, he would not do anything about the situation. Because of this, Absalom was highly offended for his sister. He took it upon himself to plot and kill Amnon.

Cause of the offense:

1. Absalom heard what happened to his sister, Tamar
2. He saw the state of her pain
3. He took the offense upon himself because of his soul tie with Tamar

The result of the offense :-

- Absalom murdered his half-brother, Amnon.

Jezebel and Ahab (1 Kings 21)

Another case where a person took an offence due to soul ties was Jezebel. We read from 1 Kings 21 that Ahab had approached Naboth to buy his vineyard. Naboth refused, and Ahab became very upset to the point of not eating. When Jezebel found out about this, she was very angry. She was offended because of what she heard from her husband and because she saw what it had done to her husband. What did she do? She framed Naboth with a crime he did not commit and had him killed. Then she challenged Ahab with these words : verse 7 “*Are you the king of Israel or not?*” Jezebel demanded. “*Get up and eat and don’t worry about it. I’ll get you Naboth’s vineyard!*”

The Bible tells us that she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, sealed them with his seal, and addressed them to the civic leaders of Jezreel, where Naboth lived. In her letter she



commanded: "*Call the citizens together for fasting and prayer. Then summon Naboth, and find two scoundrels who will accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then take him out and execute him.*"

Sadly these instructions were followed and Naboth was murdered and his vineyard given to Ahab.

Cause of the offense:

1. Jezebel heard what happened to her husband, Ahab
2. She saw the pain her husband went through
3. She took the offense upon herself because of her soul tie with her husband

The result of the offense :-

- Naboth was framed and killed.

Motivation

What motivated Absalom and Jezebel to kill the person who offended their family member? It was soul ties. They took upon themselves the wounding caused to the one they love. They were offended by what they heard (the things done to their loved one), by what they saw (the effect of the pain caused to their family member) and they took the offence upon themselves. It resulted in their murderous action.

Most of the times we get offended on behalf of someone close to us, because of some wrongful acts done to them by another person, and we see how hurt our friend or family is over this matter. We begin to take it upon ourselves to do something on their behalf. We might not physically go over and kill that person, but we might begin to say negative things about that person who hurt our friend. Worst still, we normally do not take time to check things out with the "person" concerned, but totally take our friend's or family's side on the matter.

Someone once said to me "there are three sides to every story - Your side, my side and God's side". Most of the time, we would tell other friends what this person has done. Let's face it, where there are people, there are bound to be problems. Stories can easily spread without even the person concerned knowing about it. (We once had a story come back to us, of what we apparently said of another person - the strange thing was, that we had never uttered such words).

Personal Offences

Being in ministry with my husband, I have more than once got offended with another person because he or she has hurt my husband. Can you relate to that? "How dare you talk to my husband/wife like that? I am the only one allowed to do that....." I can recall my offence against a brother-in-Christ, that went so deep because of the way he treated my husband, that I found it difficult to look him in the eye. I did not want to pray with him. I did not want to be in the same room with him.

I was tormented by the spirit of unforgiveness. It took me awhile to shake this loose. Finally I had enough of this tormenting spirit operating against me all the time. It was constantly reminding me of what this man said or did. My mind was so full of this nonsense that I could not sleep properly. Nearly all the time, my husband and I were talking about this man; even on our date night. It was like he was with us all the time. The more we talked about him, the more angry we became with him. It was difficult to hear from God about the



situation and know how to pray according to His will. Our prayers were filled with complaints from us to God more than receiving answers from the Lord.

We realised then that it was up to us to do something about it and not let this unclean spirit influence us any more. (I am talking about the devil; not this brother). For me, personally, I knew God was revealing to me that I was offended because of my soul tie with my husband. I began to renounce my hatred and anger towards this brother. I began to release him and my husband back to God. I am not God and I can't change hearts. I began to bless this brother daily. Each time thoughts against him would come to me, I would bless him. I would declare Christ has died on his behalf and this brother owes me no debt. But the greatest breakthrough came when I began to wait upon the Lord and soak in His presence. The love of the Father enabled us to forgive, and delivered us from pain and offense.

My husband and I would spend hours just loving the Lord, worshipping Him in words as well as just quietly waiting with adoration from our hearts to Him. His love, His joy and His presence would come so strongly upon us that at the end of each waiting period, we would come out feeling so good inside that nothing else seemed to matter. Even what this brother did, or continued to do, that might in the past have upset us, it now no longer had a hold over us. We were once again, able to relate to him as a brother-in-Christ. We were able to pray with him and forgive him. The spirit of torment no longer had the right to attack us.

Did the circumstances change immediately? No, but at a later stage, this brother has on several occasions confessed his need for intimacy with the Lord. We believe it is because he sees the change in us towards him. This is a powerful testimony of what the presence of God can do for us. It also speaks loud and clear to us about how important it is not to take God's place in someone else's life. Judgement is ours to take. There is only one Judge – our God! Our part is to release the people concerned to the Lord and pray. To add anything else to it will mess things up for them and for ourselves. Don't be persuaded by our soul tie with another to take action against someone else.

Bait of Satan

Offence is one of the most poisonous darts the devil can release against us, the children of God. John Bevere, in one of his books, "Bait of Satan" wrote this : *"The Greek word for offences is Scandalon. The part of the trap to which the bait is attached. To take offence against someone is to literally take the bait of the devil. An offence is therefore a trap Satan has set. There is a saying : "To hold an offence against someone". In fact we don't "hold" offences - they hold us! That is the trap!"*

Wow, that is a scary awakening to us. We often think that the person we are offended with has no right to be forgiven and that we have every right to not forgive them. But the reality is that we are tormenting ourselves by doing that and the other person might not even know that we are offended with them. Isn't that silly? Someone says "unforgiveness is like drinking poison ourselves and hoping the person we hate dies."

Too many times we have seen church splits because of offence taken up through soul ties. Separate camps were set up within a church because some like the Pastor and some do not. Is this familiar? Some leave the church and continue to speak against the church and the leadership, and there are those who refuse to leave because they feel "they have to guard the church" by making it difficult for the Pastor or leadership to have "their way". Whatever the motivation may be, at the end of the day, it is the church of Christ that suffers.

Is it unheard of?

This is by no means an unheard of situation. Even in the days of the Apostle Paul, he encountered this. He was in the picture, so to speak. 1 Corinthians 12: 11- 17 *"My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I*



follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else). For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power."

Half of these people who were quarreling with one another could very well have been influenced by offence taken up through their soul ties with each other. If Paul did not step in and say something, it might have led to bigger problems. When we begin to take sides with another on an issue, it is a sign that we are affected by soul ties. So, watch out!

Forgiveness

Jesus told Peter in Matthew 18 that we are to forgive seventy-seven times which means to continuously forgive those who have hurt us. If offence is a bait from Satan, why should we take it? No matter how many reasons or excuses he may give us, let us say it to his face "Forget it, Satan, I am not taking your bait!" Like Pastor Mike Bickle, who founded the International House of Prayer, Kansas City says "**100% it ends up in pain and loss. We don't want to dance with the devil**". That is not where we want to be.

2 Timothy 2:4 "No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer".

Soul ties can be a very strong thing that influences our decisions and the way we pray. We need to be very careful who we align ourselves with. If you are finding yourself feeling anger rising within your soul because someone close to you is angry, you need to ask yourself what is motivating you. Who is in control of your life? We do not need to speak on someone's behalf. Let God be God in their life. At times we are standing between the people we love and what God wants to do in their lives. The attack might have been initiated by the devil, but our Father can turn all things for our good. (So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfill his designed purpose. Romans 8:28 The Passion Translation).

How do you set yourself free?

- Repent of every unforgiveness towards those whom we have taken offence against.
- Break ungodly soul ties with those we are trying to protect or have taken offence on behalf of.
- Release these people to the Lord, and the ones we need to forgive.
- Bless them in the name of the Lord
- Decide not to listen to negative talks about another person.
- Break the spirit of unforgiveness, offence and the spirit of torment off our lives.
- Walk in the opposite spirit (whatever God might ask us to do, eg. pray for blessings upon that person).



PRAYER

Father I come to you in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ. I acknowledge that I have been offended against(name) because he/she has wounded my friend/family, (name). Please forgive me.

Today I break off all ungodly soul ties between me and(name the family member or friend whom you are taking side with) in Jesus' name. I release him/her to you. I let you be God in his/her life.

I choose to forgive(name of the person whom you are offended with) for.....(whatever he or she has done to your friend/family member). I bless him/her in Jesus' name. I repent for judging him/her and speaking against him/her to others.

I bless(name that person) with your love, joy, peace and protection in the name of Jesus.

Father, I ask for the blood of Jesus to cleanse me today from all sins I have committed against(name). I command all spirits of offence, unforgiveness, bitterness, torment, judgment and all critical spirits (command anything else that the Holy Spirit might highlight to you) to leave me right now in Jesus' mighty name! I will not give you any more hold over my life nor influence over my relationship with(name of the person you have forgiven) in Jesus' name.

If you feel that you need someone whom you trust to pray with you, it is fine to do so. James 5:16 tells us "*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*"

Breaking off soul ties

I would like to clarify that "breaking off soul ties" with another does not affect our relationship with that person. It will release us into greater freedom of the Lord to have a "godly relationship" with that person. It will give us a healthy relationship with that person. If we truly want to help and care for a person, we need to commit and surrender that person to the Lord. Take time to listen to the Lord how He wants us to help that person. Don't run with our feelings alone.

Manipulation

We have also seen many Christians manipulate another by soul ties. I believe many Christians recognise the power of soul ties and are using it in a wrong way. For us, as parents, we need to be constantly aware if we have a godly or ungodly soul tie with our children and how they can affect our parenting.

Ultimately God is in charge, we are merely stewards. We don't control their lives, but help to guide them in the way of the Lord. I am not advocating "free reign" for our children. I am saying, don't dominate and manipulate them. Children long and crave for their parents' love and acceptance. We need to be very sensitive to the Lord in what we are bringing out of our children. May this be said to all people who are under our circle of influence too, and they might include our spiritual children, our class (if we are teachers) and so on.

More Studies

There are many teachings on the subject of soul ties over the net. You can easily find out more about this subject, which is very important to our spiritual growth. God desires to set His Bride free for Himself. "It is for freedom that Christ has set you free".... My prayer is that you walk in the liberty of the Holy Spirit today. Praise the name of our King Jesus Christ!