

LEGO MY EGO: THE FOOD FOR OFFENSE

Series: Finding Yourself, Pt2 January 19, 2020 ser3904

Today we are going to continue with part 2 of our “Finding Yourself” sermon series and hopefully together, we can all gain a deeper understanding of an area that may be holding us back from experiencing life in a way that is truly fulfilling, impacting and pleasing to God.

I found my sermon title from a very unexpected and funny place; an old TV commercial that I grew up with that made me start to think about one of my own “uglies”.

Does anyone here remember the commercial, where someone goes to grab a waffle, and suddenly they have their hand smacked away by someone who says, “Lego my Eggo”?

I always thought...wow, I wouldn't want to be in that family! I mean... look how selfish they are! One person is trying to take what doesn't belong to him/her without asking... and the other person is too selfish to share. Two self-centered people who can't even get through breakfast without a fight.

The title of today's message is...

Lego my Ego: The Food for Offense

Nothing separates friendships, family and even churches more than offenses. This is what we deal with and struggle to avoid probably more than anything as a church staff. However, no matter what we do...someone always gets offended, and it's all wrapped up in our ...egos.

What is ego? It is a Latin word which means "self"

In science, it has its origins with *Freudian psychology*.

It was his thinking that we were basically made up of 3 distinct personality traits that are at constant war with each other.

The first is the **id** which is basically our instincts.

The second is the **super ego** which is the moral part of the psyche,

And the third is the actual **ego** which is the rational part that mediates between the other two.

Trinity of man

What is interesting is that the ego, super ego and the id are as close to a Biblical truth as an atheist can get without forgoing being an atheist.

Freud looked at us as being made up of 3 things, which is what the Bible teaches us as well.

The **id** is what we as believers call the **Flesh**. It is instinct driven.

The **Ego** is what we call the **Soul**, which is our mind will and emotions

The **super ego** would be our **spirit**, which is that thing that makes us self-aware and guides us morally.

The mind, flesh and spirit are the Id, Ego and Super Ego.

Through the years this term ego has become very commonplace and has taken on other meanings:

If you say someone has "a big ego," you are saying he is too full of himself, so we have words like egotistical or an egomaniac.

The word *ego* generally refers to an **exaggerated sense of self-importance**, which usually results in an excessive preoccupation with me.

The "**me**" **mentality** is a huge issue that may be one of those areas in our lives that often goes unchecked... and because it goes unchecked, can cause huge problems in our walk with the Lord as well **as in our life circles.**

You see, the Lord gave us the Bible as a manual on life and one thing we learn about life is that it's filled with others. **Funny isn't it? We often forget that the world is filled with others.** Often times we view people as things that are simply...in the way, just an unimportant roadblock on my way to doing life.

And so, we figure out ways to get around other people no matter what the cost, even if it is sinful. After all, the **very nature of most sin is how we deal with others.**

Think of it...

Lying is a sin against others.

Stealing is a sin against others.

Cheating is a sin against others.

Murder is a sin against others.

Sexual sin is a sin against, and **requires,** others.

In fact, it's almost hard to sin when it's not in relation, one way or the other, to someone else.

The very definition of sin **is an offense, or violation of the divine law in thought or in act.**

An offense - This is something I do all the time. In my selfishness I find myself causing offense against those around me, and ultimately, against God. I did it just driving in my car...

Desiree and I often use the **STOP, POINT AND WAVE** technique when I drive.

This is an example of putting my needs in front of others and in doing so, I caused an offense.

We must learn to treat others the way we like to be treated (Golden Rule Matt 7:12). But the problem is that we want to be treated... period! **We want the treat.**

It's like the joke. How does a selfish person screw in a light bulb? He puts the bulb in and waits for the world to revolve around him!

This should not be who we are as believers.

The Bible is filled with admonitions against living for self. In fact, scripture tell us:

Philippians 2:1 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to

the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ...

So why do we struggle with this? Because we were made in the very image of God, we have an **inherent desire... to be worshiped!** And we do. Admit it or not, we all struggle with a "worship me" attitude.

Ex: We want people to talk about us, and when we talk to others, do we even care what the other person is saying unless it's about us?

We want people to be jealous of what we have. We want people to be amazed at our accomplishments. We want people to think we're funny and hopefully, good looking. We want people to say to themselves as they walk away, "If only I was like him. If only I was like her."

We wish that we could be famous actors or musicians or athletes, because they often times receive worship.

It's self-centered, self-aggrandizing Pride.

**As Christians, God will literally oppose us
as an enemy if we live in pride.**

One verse that epitomizes why we are to be humble is Peter's exhortation in his first epistle:

"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5:5)

Scripture makes it clear that God literally hates pride and arrogance (Proverbs 8:13).

In fact, it was pride that turned Lucifer into Satan.

Isaiah 14:13-14 describes Satan's astounding focus on self: "I will ascend...I will raise...I will sit...I will make myself like the Most High."

THE I EGO

Clearly, an inflated ego and its focus on self are not in keeping with the Christian call for humility. **A humble heart has no room for ego or pride or arrogance or selfishness, because it recognizes that all we have and all we are comes from God.**

(1 Corinthians 4:7) For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you

boast as though you did not?"

Look...every gift, every talent, every breath we take—all are from God, including our most precious gift of all... salvation

What I've learned is that if we are walking with the Lord, He will beat that self-pride right out of us! **Our full potential comes from knowing this one thing...When I am weak then I am strong!**

That's how we reach our full potential in life. Not thinking I'm all that, but **HE IS ALL THAT.**

We cannot reach our full potential when we are full of egos! **We have to Lego our egos!**

Let's talk about offense:

It's important for us to ask, "**Why do we get offended**", especially now.

We are embarking on monthly sermon series throughout 2020 that are going to touch on some pretty hard subject matter.

We will be looking at things that most churches sway away from. We even have two important events coming up, and although we are very excited for these events, we realize that both can cause great offense amongst people.

We will be showing the “Unplanned” movie on Jan 22nd and our Atonement Service for our nation will follow on Jan 26th.

Both events are to bring us together as a body of believers so that we may not just become more aware of the issues surrounding abortion, but also to minister to those who have been affected by it, as well. Both events will indeed be life changing and important for the future of our great land. However, this is a red-hot topic which stirs offense in some people like no other. I believe it was no coincidence that we started these series, as well as these two events simultaneously. Looking at ourselves first and how to deal with offense, we can be a part of something great and important, rather than shy away from it. We, as believers will never get anywhere in God’s plan for our lives if we do not become bold.

We don't need to be a narcissist to be offended. Those who think that they are all that get offended for the same reasons as someone who lacks any self-confidence.

Here's a truth for you. We become offended because we attach other meanings to what the person said or did.

- *"She said that because she thinks I'm stupid."*
- *"He did that because he thinks I'm unattractive."*
- *"They said that because they know my past."*

You see, we get offended because deep down inside we already felt those things about ourselves! No matter if you're a narcissist or lack self-esteem all together these are things that we put on ourselves and the person is simply validating the negative view we have already. Thus, we want them to take it back... to assure us it's not so.

This then leads us to ...How do we lego our ego and stop living a life being offended at every turn?

Ways to fix offense:

#1 Recognize your opinions are not you. When identities are too closely tied to one's opinions, and those opinions are then disagreed with, many feel like they, themselves, have been rejected; the core of who they are has been attacked.

To overcome hypersensitivity, realize that your opinions are just that. And the same goes for those who you disagree with. Just because you disagree with them doesn't make them an enemy.

#2 Pray to want Truth more than wanting to be Being Right! Always being concerned with winning the argument is a losing effort. When we do this, we miss opportunities to grow, and even worse, we can lose those close to us who may be teaching us something we didn't know. **It's a lose, lose situation when we only want to win, win.**

#3: Please realize the contradiction when we say that people are selfish...which means they are only thinking of themselves.... and then the next minute we think they are plotting against us!

Which one is it? The truth is, people don't have the time, the patience or the willpower to be thinking of ways to harass you. Your right, you're not THAT important. Lol **We need to stop thinking that we reside at the center of everything.** We don't. Not in this world at least. God's world, yes! Man's world...not so much!

And lastly . . .

#4 Love - The bible tells us in *1 Peter 4:8, Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

If sin is an offense against God, then how did God Himself react to our offenses?

For God so LOVED the world that He gave His only begotten son... John 3:16

My example of love: The President Obama Pic

Jesus example of love: Remember, Jesus was a human example of how we should live. Jesus was humble. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Jesus ate with sinners.

Jesus took criticism from those who were wrongly accusing him and wrongly punishing him and still said *"Lord forgive them for they do not know what they do."*

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of humility.

(Philippians 2:7-8) "...he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he

humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

This is the opposite of ego. The opposite of self. And it's the opposite of taking offense when clearly there was one.

And Why? Because God So loved...