

# The Trap

Part 1: The Fruits of Offense  
Colossians 3:8-14

## Launch

What did you do on New Year's Eve?

## Explore

### Read the passage

Why are we to rid ourselves of the things listed in verse 8? Why are/were these things so prevalent in our lives?

How, practically, can we take off our old clothes and put on the new clothes listed in verses 12-14?

Why/How is offense a trap? According to vs 13, why is forgiveness the key to escaping the trap of offense?

## Apply

*"Immature Christians are hard to please and easy to offend."* Agree or disagree?

What are the people in your relational world most offended by? Why?

Of the seven fruits of offense (anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, avoidance, and unforgiveness), which do you think is the most damaging to relationships? To our witness for Christ?

How do you handle offense? Give an example of the last time you were offended and how you dealt with it.

## Pray

Pray that we would be aware of the trap of offense, relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom, and maturity.