

# Standing Firm in the Love of God

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*Matthew 24:1-14*

## I. How the people of our culture are becoming increasingly scandalized (offended) (Matthew 24:10)

- A. The word translated “turn away” is “*skandalizo*” in Matthew 24:10.
  - 1. To put a stumbling block in the way—to offend
  - 2. To cause a person to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey
  - 3. Taking the bait stick (“*skandalon*”) of unfulfilled expectations
- B. We live in an unprecedented atmosphere of unfulfilled expectations.
  - 1. Betrayal (Matthew 24:10)
  - 2. False prophets (Matthew 24:11)
  - 3. Wickedness—lawlessness—love grown cold (Matthew 24:12, 13)
  - 4. At the same time, the Gospel is being preached in all the nations at an unparalleled pace (Matthew 24:14).

## II. How taking offense cools love

- A. It cuts us off from the source of all love, God Himself.
  - 1. The heart can be trapped in a jail of unforgiveness and demons (Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35).
  - 2. Don’t let your heart be trapped in a jail of judgment (Matthew 7:1-2).
- B. Taking offense can cut us off from blessing (Psalm 66:17-20).
- C. Taking offense can cut us off from the joy of our salvation (Psalm 51:10-12).

## III. How to find the tenderness of love again

- A. Forgive God; forgive others; and step out from under the box.
  - 1. Forgiveness means to stop waiting for others to make things right.
  - 2. Forgiveness means to stop judging others for what they have done to you.
- B. Let God heal you of inner brokenness. Sometimes deliverance from demonic oppression may be necessary. We are to be intimately involved with each other’s freedom and healing (Isaiah 61:1-3; James 5:13-20).
  - 1. Reveal—agree with God about your stuff.
  - 2. Renounce—bad attitudes
  - 3. Rebuke—verbally break demonic power off your life in Jesus’ name
- C. Receive first love all over again; stand firm to the end (Matthew 24:12, 13).
  - 1. Receiving God’s supernatural love to re-fire your heart (I John 4:19-20; Ephesians 3:14-21)
  - 2. It takes God to love God. He will show you what He is doing (John 5:19-20).
    - a. The joy of heaven (Luke 15:1-7)
    - b. Taking part in the great drama of the ages (Matthew 24:14)

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October 2, 2022*