

Teach 4 the Heart Podcast Transcript

Episode 360 – How to be Unoffendable in a Culture of Offense

00:00 Linda's Introduction and Summit Invitation

Linda Kardamis (00:00)

As a teacher, do you ever get angry or offended? Today, Brent Hanson is going to share a life-changing approach to handling conflict that gives us practical advice on how to be unoffendable in a world that seems to thrive on outrage. Well, welcome back to the Teach for the Heart podcast where we tackle teaching challenges from a biblical perspective. Why are we here? Because we don't believe that our spiritual walk and teaching profession should exist in two separate domains.

Rather, the hope we have in Christ should change how we approach everything, not just at home, but at school as well. So join us as we explore both the spiritual and practical sides of key teaching challenges, integrating them together so we can succeed at teaching, glorify God, and make a lasting difference in our students' hearts and lives. This episode is brought to you in partnership with the Herzog Foundation. We also want to thank our sponsor, Dordt University.

Unlock the Science of Reading with Dordt University at a free webinar on October 15th. This webinar will help you explore how to use data to make targeted teaching decisions and incorporate high-impact instructional routines. You will leave with a clearer understanding of the research behind reading development, gain practical strategies for greater instructional impact, and tools for purposeful assessment. Register today at [dort.edu slash](https://dort.edu/webinars)

That's d-o-r-d-t dot e-d-u slash webinars. Well, today we have a special episode because we are going to be sharing a piece of a session.

from last year's Rise Up Summit. And in this session, this was our kickoff session of last year's summit, Brent Hanson, who you might know as a bestselling author, and he's also on a nationally syndicated radio personality. And he is absolutely amazing. And he was sharing about his book, Unoffendable, How to Be Unoffendable in a Culture of Offense. And it is so powerful what he's sharing here.

about just, you know, it can be so easy to get upset and frustrated. And he, this advice he's going to share is going to be absolutely amazing. And before I play this clip for you, I want to let you know that Brandt is going to be back again at our summit this year for keynote speaker once again, because it

was so amazing having him last year. So if you are not signed up, go to riseupchristianeducators.com, sign up for free. And we hope you can be with us live, but if not, you can watch the replay.

Your free ticket includes access for the entire weekend. So once again, that's riseupchristianeducators.com. All right, let's dive right into what Brant has to share with us.

02:38 Our Relationship with Anger

Brant Hansen (02:38)

Well, the anger thing, can't, I was trying to figure this out because obviously it's such a huge thing in our culture, but for individuals and I grew up being taught that there's such a thing as righteous anger and then there's unrighteous anger. And so I know we're supposed to hold on to the righteous anger and then unrighteous anger, we should get rid of that. But I remember I was on the air on my radio show and A.

You're constantly making people mad on the radio. It doesn't matter what you say. Some of these could be upset about it. That's just the way it is. But I was honestly asking because it's something that happened in the news locally that was really awful. And I said, I know we're supposed to be mad about it. And then I said, hey, how long are we supposed to be mad about stuff like we all know it was on a Christian radio station. It's like how long we know we're supposed to have righteous anger like to a couple of weeks.

Is it a year? Is it rest of my life? We just hold on to this because it's righteous. Like how long? And nobody can answer the question. And it was really strange. And then I got to thinking about it and researching it and I'll be darned. This is so counterintuitive. And I know most of the people watching this, you may even disagree and that's fair. ~ It's so counterintuitive. But I went in the Bible and I can't I can't find righteous anger for humans.

It's not in there. It is for God. His anger is righteous. Like he's allowed anger. Our anger is not righteous. It's never considered righteous in scripture ever. And whenever I would bring that up, like, wait a second. Only God's anger is righteous. Like he's entitled to vengeance. We're not. He's entitled to anger. We're not. He does get angry and everybody's like, what about Jesus in the temple? It's like, right, right. He's sinless. He gets final judgment too. Like, but

Are we all Jesus in that story or we're actually the money changers? And then the other thing is when I would ask that question for people, they would always point to the same scripture. And it's Ephesians, ~ chapter four, verse twenty six. And it says, in your anger, do not sin. And so people would be like, well, see, it says in your anger, do not sin. Therefore.

It's not sin. Therefore, sometimes it's really good to be angry. You should be angry. We ought to be angry about some stuff which makes total common sense. The problem is that's only half the verse. And nobody memorizes the second half of the verse because it actually says in your anger, do not sin, comma. And the rest of the verse, I'm like, what's the rest of the verse? It says, but be sure to get rid of your anger before the sun goes down.

I that's our proof text for our righteous anger is, see, but we don't remember the rest of the verse for some reason. It's like, it's very funny. It's just human nature. And then later on in the same paragraph, it says, do not be angry. mean, like, there's no basis scripturally for us hanging on to our anger. So I make it clear that anger happens. It's a fight or flight response to perceive threat, right? Like it happens. So it's not sin in and of itself.

Heather (05:44)

Mm-hmm.

Brant Hansen (06:00)

But we're supposed to get rid of it. And Jesus actually gives us the ability to do that. Whereas the larger culture does not have that tool. They will discuss like if it's the Washington Post or the Atlantic or New York Times, they'll have some sort of an article about the epidemic of anger in our culture. What do you do about it? What should we do? And then be like, well, you can take a walk. can listen to some music. ~ Meditate for a few minutes.

Brant Hansen (06:29)

But they never mention the only thing that actually works, which is forgiveness.

Heather (06:34)

Mmm.

Brant Hansen (06:35)

And so what I'm trying to do in the book is to explain like this is a practice of our faith where we actually walk in forgiveness at the beginning of the day. We're forgiving people in advance because we know humans are broken already. We can actually do this. It's practical and it becomes easier over time. So that's that's the good news too. Like this is a practice and you practice something because it becomes second nature after what?

But you decide I'm not going to be offended by the same stuff every single day. Which is actually pretty funny if you think about it, because people are there upset about the same thing every day. Like, I can't believe somebody just cut me off in traffic. It's like, have you ever driven before? Because that's actually something that happens quite a bit. But we're offended by human nature over and over and over. We're continually scandalized. Like, there is a way out of this. And that's that forgiveness thing. And I'll let you.

Brant Hansen (07:34)

I'm talking too long, but you don't forgive people. By the way, I consider forgiveness like letting go of your right to anger against them.

Heather (07:44)

Hmm. Yeah.

Brant Hansen (07:46)

don't you don't do it because they deserve it because they don't actually you do it because you didn't deserve it that's your basis for forgiving people

Linda Kardamis (7:58)

I just got to attend a Herzog event a few weeks ago - and, wow, it's amazing how much God is doing at the Herzog Foundation! They are pouring into Christian schools in an incredible way, and if you're teaching at a Christian school, you should definitely check them out. In particular, take a look at their amazing lineup of free trainings (even lodging & meals are included for free). And another resource everyone can enjoy is their Faith & Freedom 250 video series which tells stories of faith, sacrifice & courage from America's history. Check out these - and so much more - at herzogfoundation.com

Heather (08:57)

No, I think that's great. And I love how you said this feels like a muscle that you need to exercise, right? It takes practice. It's not intuitive at all.

Brant Hansen (09:08)

No, it is completely countercultural. The wild thing about this though, well, there's several wild things about it that follow from this. I'm so glad we get to talk about it, because this will change your day. This will change every day. And it's genius, not because I came up with it. I didn't, Jesus did. But this forgiving as you've been forgiven thing, letting go of your right to anger, it's so brilliant.

I actually got to talk about this. is so weird for me because I'm not really a TV guy, but actually got to go on Good Morning America and talk about it. And the anchor guy asked a great question. He's like,

well, man, but forgiving people is so hard. I'm like, that's true. But you know what's harder is living a life of unforgiveness. Like this is freedom. This is your way out.

Heather (09:55)

Hmm.

Brant Hansen (10:01)

It's genius. Jesus' way of life is actually easier and lighter, just like he told us. It actually is. This is a better way to live. And you do it as an act of worship to him. And it turns out this is a much more productive way to live. Anger does not enhance your judgment. It doesn't help you fight injustice. You think it does, it doesn't. It actually impedes your ability to address injustices. But yeah, so.

I talk about it a lot. The funny thing is on the air, I literally, I just do, if anybody's ever heard like the Metashare commercials on the radio, I do this commercial for this health plan thing. And I'll just, it's the most innocuous thing in the world. I just, I'm just talking like a normal guy. I'm not trying to be cool or anything, but I just say, Hey, you can save, you know, \$500 a month if you, you know, do this thing.

I get hate mail for that. I get hate tweets. I don't even know how they find out who I am. But I got a tweet and actually memorize it from a dude because it was so it was so well done. His tweet was, dude, you're the worst. Every time I hear your voice on the radio, I want to drive my Jeep into a tree.

Heather (11:17)

~ boy.

Brant Hansen (11:19)

So like whatever job you're doing, get this. My response, by the way, was, okay, but first, can I tell you about a health plan where you can save \$500 a month? but it's like any job you're in, you know this, you're forward facing, you're dealing with human beings. So forgiving them in advance, you know, if you're a believer in Jesus, you already know that humans are broken. We should have special insight into human nature. This is nothing new under the sun, like.

Heather (11:35)

Mm-hmm.

Brant Hansen (11:48)

When you show up for work at school beforehand, already forgiving people in advance that kid's going to do the stuff that kid does that parents going to do the stuff that parent does that boss is going to do that stuff that that boss does. And you, and again, you do practice it. gets easier. Just like, um, shooting free throws, you practice all these free throws over and over and over. So that in a game, when it matters, you don't even have to think about it. It's just second nature. Right.

Heather (12:05)

Mm-hmm.

Brant Hansen (12:18)

or the piano, same thing. Like this is something you can get better at and it's a better way to live.

Linda Kardamis (12:24)

Yeah, I... Go ahead.

Heather (12:27)

No, I was just I think as a nice segue here you I know in your book you do talk about the fact that ~ you have received criticism as a radio announcer. ~ You talked about being criticized for playing a secular song on your accordion too well. ~ You were criticized for a weather forecast that you gave. ~ And so how do you if you want to share any more on those?

instances, ~ really, how do not take these things personally? Because as teachers, we are criticized, whether it's parents, colleagues, students themselves, we want to be able to move beyond that.

Brant Hansen (13:11)

Yeah, okay. Well, there's, there's many practical things we can talk about with regard to that. But yeah, the weather forecast thing was funny because I, I just said, Hey, it's going to be a little warmer than it should be for this time of year, know, high of 85 and then tomorrow we're going to have a low of 64. And then, um, somebody called and said, uh, I'm really, they're like, I'm really disappointed with you. I was like, why, by the way, on Christian radio stations, they don't say they're angry. just say they're disappointed with you when they call them. They're like,

I'm really disappointed because you said that it's going to be warmer than it should be for this time of year, but it's actually going to be God ordains the weather. It's going to be exactly what it should be. It's like, okay, that's cool. But like even your weather forecast, you can get in trouble, but that's that's

any job. What I love is reminding myself that there's a couple of places in scripture where it said that Jesus knew what they were thinking. It said Jesus knew what they were thinking.

No one had to tell him what men were like.

Heather (14:11)

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Brant Hansen (14:13)

Alright, so he's not scandalized every time like, my goodness, I cannot wait. can you believe this? Like, yeah, I can believe it. This is going to be the rest of your life. If you're in a classroom or you're dealing with parents or you're dealing with the culture at large, there's always going to be stuff to be upset about. This is a ticket out of that. And it's it's so brilliant. So one.

One practical thing I get is decide at the beginning of the morning, making your discipline. I'm going to forgive people in advance in spite of it, not because of them, not because they deserve it.

14:49 Linda's Final Thoughts

Linda Kardamis (14:49)

We hope you guys enjoyed this conversation with Brant and just kind of starting to realize how we experience the freedom God offers when we don't hold on to our anger. It's such a counter-cultural approach, but it's a biblical one and God's ways are always best. I hope that you can join us also at the summit. Once again, we're gonna have Brant back as our keynote speaker again for the summit. And so I know if you enjoyed this clip with him, you are going to love hearing him live. So you can go to riseupchristianeducators.com to sign up for free and to join us in this year's event coming up super, super soon.

This episode has been brought to you in partnership with the Herzog Foundation. All views and opinions are our own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Herzog Foundation. If you've enjoyed this episode, please do share it with a friend, a colleague, and also like, subscribe, leave a review. All those things really do help us to reach more teachers. Well, thank you so much. I look forward to being with you again soon. In the meantime, teach you remember God is at work in you and through you, and he's using you to make a difference. Keep your eyes on him and teach for the heart.