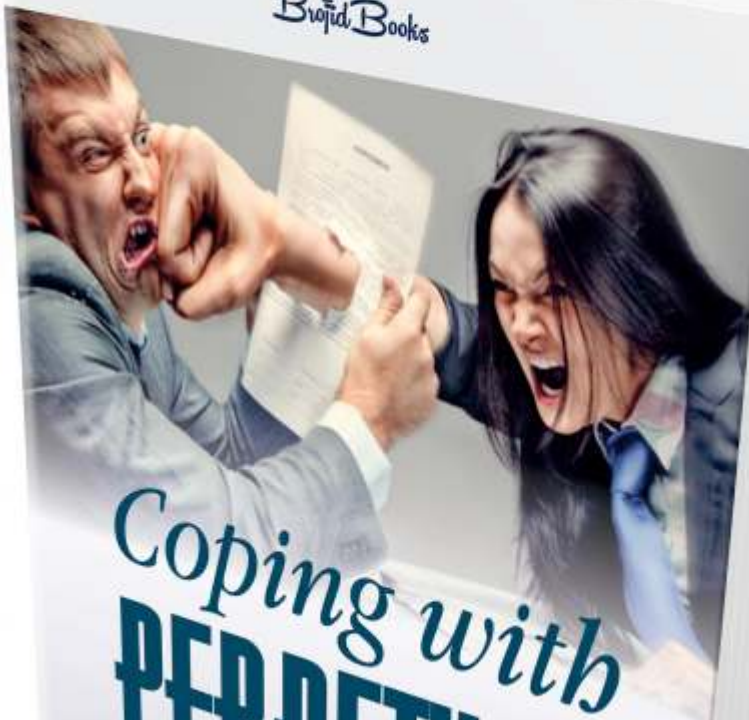



Brojid Books



Coping with
**PERPETUAL
OFFENDERS**

Joseph 'Brojid' Dinwoke

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My Radio Listener & Her Perpetual Offender



On the 29th October, 2017 edition of my Sunday morning Radio Programme, **Moment of Blessing**, aired on Radio Nigeria Voice 96.7FM, a listener called in and talked about her husband that offends her every time and apologizes each time.

She asked me what she should do in the situation. I attempted answering her in less than 2 minutes I had left at the tail end of the programme. As I left the studio, I reflected on her question and realized that she is not the only one wanting an answer to the same question.

Many of us have such questions bugging us every day. Although,

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our case may not be that of a perpetually offending husband, we most certainly have people that offend us nearly all the time and therefore need to learn how to cope with them. That's why in this book, I want to share with you how to handle perpetual offenders.

In our relationships, we sometimes encounter people who will offend us almost as a habit. That is, they consistently do things that you find offensive and if you fail to handle them properly, your relationship with them grows sour and may eventually crash with its attendant consequences.

As people who have chosen to obey God in all that we do, we understand that in all our dealings with people, we have no option than to forgive whoever offends us.* That is, if you pay attention to the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, you will find that the 77 times⁷ a day forgiveness limit implicitly means that you have to perpetually forgive the perpetual offender!

We have no option than to forgive totally. However, there is more we can do aside forgiving the perpetual offender to help us move forward in life. Aside offering them total forgiveness, we can make them better and help them cease from their

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offensive lifestyle.

No matter how the perpetual offender is entrenched in his offensive ways, he is still redeemable and can be helped. He can still change just like any other human being with character flaws. You just need to find out how to cope with him or her and help overcome the lifestyle that offends you.

In this mini book, my desire is that you will gain insight and understand what to do in coping with and handling any perpetual offender you find in your life.

**Matthew 19:6, Ephesians 4:31-32, Colossians 3:13*



Perpetual Offenders May Not Be Deliberate



We are often tempted to think that perpetual offenders deliberately offend us; but that's not a correct thinking. We often think this way because we assume we don't offend people as much as they do or find it hard to understand why they seem helpless in their flaws and lifestyle you consider offensive.

The truth is that many perpetual offenders didn't choose to be so; but either that they don't know better or that they are under an influence that makes it hard for them

not to default. Let me show you why they may not be deliberate in their offence.

I understand that there are people who are generally wicked or hate you so much that they always do things to hurt you or don't care about how their actions and lifestyle affect you negatively. However, there are people who with all sincerity want to make you happy and avoid anything that will hurt you; yet they still offend you in an area.

What I am saying in essence is that your cheating husband may not be that way because he chose to, so that you will be hurt and heartbroken. In the sincerity of his heart, he wanted the last cheating escapade to really be the last but he still found himself in the act.

In the same vein, your wife who seems to lose control of her mouth when she gets angry may not do that as a calculated attempt to offend you. In the course of her anger she said thing she shouldn't and she is equally aware how such talking strains your relationship.

I'd also like you to know that your boss, colleague, neighbours and even strangers who seem not to

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have any iota of respect for you and rain abuses on you at any slightest offence may be helplessly disrespectful. They know how stupid losing their temper makes them look and how it affects their relationship with others; but they seem incapacitated to stop and change for the good.

The bus conductor, banker, preacher, public figure that didn't treat you well may not have done that deliberately. They are just living out their lives and you found them offensive. They may not have meant to hurt you; yet they ended up doing just that.

My point?

Although there are really wicked people who are out to make life difficult for you, please realise that there are people that offend you without any prior plan to do so. If you understand them, coping with them becomes an easy ride and helping them becomes a fulfilling adventure. Seek to understand the perpetual offender; not under cut him!



Understand the Perpetual Offender



The offence of a perpetual offender can be very painful. The pains get more penetrating when the offender shows no remorse. However, if you understand a perpetual offender, you will be equipped to cope with him as well as help him. Let me introduce you to a perpetual offender.

I had explained earlier that it's possible that your perpetual offender offends you because he can't help but offend you. I do not by that mean that he can never change and there is nothing he can do

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about it. My emphasis is that unless the person deliberately makes changes in his mindset and lifestyle that produces the offence, he can't help but offend you in those areas.

A perpetual offender is positioned where he or she can't help but offend people he/she is relating with. He has influence, mindset and lifestyle that make him default in the areas you find offensive. That's why I call perpetual offenders, *offenders by influence*.

You see, life is designed in a fashion that you will act in a manner consistent with your true self which comprises of your belief system, values and associations. The root of a perpetual offender's life is that he brought himself to the point where he can't help but offend you.

Please don't think he deliberately brought himself to that point; nobody would want to do that. He may have come under such influence by virtue of his background and upbringing. From these influences, he carries a lifestyle that may linger in his life forever, unless he makes committed effort at changing it.

Let me illustrate with these examples.

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A man that grew up under a wife-batter father may grow up with the consciousness that it's OK to beat a wife when she defaults or gets you angry as a way of correcting her.

It's even worse if the beating always made her mother recoil in her shell and assume *obedient-slave* position in the home. He may not plan to hit his girlfriend or wife; but without even thinking about it, he raises his hands on her when he gets offended.

His friend who is not like him sees his action as an aberration because he has never ever seen his father verbally cut her mother to shred let alone raise his hands on her.

Meanwhile, this friend of his may be a chronic adulterer because he grew up from a background where people are sexually loose and he is aware of his father's promiscuity and he doesn't see anything wrong with his adulterous lifestyle.

Similarly, a child that grew up without adequate and

proper training in respect for elders may turn out insulting and show zero respect for elders.

You may find it offensive if you are her boss or husband; but she is not so because she chooses to but because she was not properly cultured to be respectful. She offends you in not showing you respect not because she doesn't love you, but because she is an offender by influence.

A perpetual offender may have also exposed himself to influences that produce his offensive lifestyle by virtue of interactions which he considers subtle and harmless but indirectly affect him. Let me show you how people subject themselves to an influence without realizing it.

You see, men generally hang out with other men especially to drink and in the process gist about life. If your faithful husband hangs out with adulterous men long enough, he will be influenced negatively by their lifestyle. Even if he doesn't go into it as deep as his influencers, he will most certainly have elements of it.

It's important to know that he didn't go there to learn the bad lifestyle of adultery; he just went to

hangout and found himself in the midst of men who choose adultery as a way of life. He refused to quit the association; but convinced himself that nothing will happen to him.

He didn't realise that the change in his lifestyle may not happen automatically but will start with playing down on the wickedness associated with adultery. He starts realizing that adultery is good to *eat and make a man wise*, until one day, opportunity will present itself and he will fall helplessly into it. Many people started like that and have gone very deep into it.

In the same vein, your wife who used to be respectful and submissive changed when she started entertaining the visits and association of women who are not happy in their home or married heartless men.

She had no plan of changing negatively but she just welcomed her visitors, church members or neighbours and as usual they started gisting (abi gossiping). Women who married heartless men devise means of handling their husbands and his lifestyle.

When your wife starts listening to them, she will start learning the methods of handling a wicked, heartless and godless man and if care is not taken, you will start getting the treatment that you don't deserve.

If she is not greatly influenced by such unprofitable association, certain evil seeds will be deposited in her heart, at least in a small measure. She may not find out until when you remark, "When did you change like this?"

My point?

The perpetual offender is so by influence and not necessarily by choice. This should exude pity from you, not harsh judgment. It should propel you to seek a means of helping, not harassing him. Let it activate endurance in you but not to exit your relationship. It may not be easy; but the thrilling joy of seeing a hitherto annoying person turn loving can be great.



Help the Perpetual Offender



I have explained that the perpetual offender is not so because he chose to, but because he can't help but offend you since he has come under an influence. He is an offender; not by choice but by influence. He therefore needs help from you to navigate this stage in his life. I want to show you how to help a perpetual offender.

The greatest help you can offer a perpetual offender is to point him to the influences he has exposed himself to, that produces his offensive lifestyle and the need to dislodge such influences. He may not

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know and that's why you need to show him. Please talk to him with utmost care. Talk to him in a very calm state when you are not feeling the heat of the offence. Let him know how his behaviour is adversely affecting you and why he needs to drop the mindset that births the behaviour.

Sometimes, pointing it out may not be necessary. Just introduce him to a new level of knowledge that will knock out the wrong mindset he has and you will be fine.

If you can teach her directly, please patiently and diligently do so. With commitment to teaching and patience in correction, you will be able to, not only remove mindsets that produce the offensive lifestyle, but implant the right mindset.

If it's someone you can't teach, please expose him or her to teachings and associations that will help him learn. Even when you can teach him, it doesn't stop you from exposing him to positive associations that will make your teaching more penetrating and fruitful.

If you, in any way, contribute to the offensive lifestyle, please change your ways. It's possible that

her offence is hinged on your failings or faults and not that she is just a bad fellow.

As an example, if your wife finds it hard to respect you because of how foolish your decisions are or the manner you conduct yourself; please help her out by making adjustments. I am not trying to make excuse for her lifestyle; I am only saying that you should help her do the right thing.

In the same vein, if your husband sleeps around because your way of registering his offence or failure as a father and husband is by denying him sex, please stop and save him from adulterous lifestyle.

Again, don't get the impression that I endorse adultery under certain conditions; I don't! If God wants us to marry one wife; I am sure He knows that extra one or a concubine is not necessary.

However, my sister, I want you to help him obey God by giving him his marital privileges. If you can easily tell him when you are offended; please do so. If you can't, use other subtle and harmless methods to communicate your annoyance.

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Don't be quick to call your child stubborn; did you plant the seed in him by being too mean to him? Are you sure you didn't make him the thief he has become because you don't care about his need? It's not enough to be shouting at her about her escapades with men. Are you sure you didn't push her into it with your negligence.

I'm not saying your children are right in their ways. I am not also saying that the right course of action to take is the ones they have chosen, no matter how they are treated. My point is that you should appraise their poor performance in school, wild lifestyle and see if you played any role in it.

My point?

The perpetual offender offends because he has come under an influence and the greatest help you can give him is showing him the influences that produce the lifestyle he has while pointing out how he can get over it.

Teach him if you can or expose him to people that will teach him and associations that will encourage him to a better lifestyle.

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Also, be sure you don't in any way contribute to his offensive lifestyle. If you do, please withdraw your contribution henceforth and watch the perpetual offender become better.



Perpetually Forgive the Perpetual Offender



One other way that you can help the perpetual offender is to perpetually forgive him. You and I are to forgive people with no limits. Let me show you why and how.

Perpetual forgiveness to a perpetual offender may not be easy because we are humans and the hurt of the offence may be very deep.

However, our Lord Jesus Christ teaches that that's what we should do and in Christ there is power

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available to us to do the will of God even when it seems hard.

I understand that the perpetual offender may not deserve the forgiveness you are giving him; but you need to give it to him as a way of waiting for him to change and have better relationship with you.

I believe people can change and sometimes what they need to change are simple things like love, care, teaching and prayer.

I am not saying it's easy to do but I enjoin you to do it for that one. You need to forgive him so that your love for him doesn't wane. You need to forgive him to sustain the burden to pray effectual and heartfelt prayer for him. You need to forgive him to teach him with diligence and care.

Generally, forgiveness is hard and it's even harder when the offender repeats the offence or is unapologetic. However, we can still forgive totally and perpetually because God empowers us to do so.

In fact, we even make it even easier to forgive others by casting our mind on the reality that we equally

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offend God and other humans perpetually; yet He shows mercy on us and our fellow men don't crucify us.

There are a number of things you can do to help you forgive the perpetual offender. It has helped me in great measure.

Realize that the offender may not be deliberate.

Remind yourself that you are not infallible and therefore need forgiveness from God and fellow humans.

Explain to yourself that forgiveness sets your mind free while grudges puts you in bondage.

Clarify to yourself that revenge won't undo the offence; but forgiveness heals the hurts.

Please realize that the perpetual offender is helplessly under an influence and that's why he can't help but offend you. It's not necessarily because he wants to offend you but because his background (which he has no control over) and his exposures (which he may not be aware of) may have made him the way he is.

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One of the greatest things you can give him is unreserved forgiveness! By all means, give it to him.



Exit the Sphere of Offence



The fact that you have to perpetually forgive the offender is not arguable. However, what happens when the perpetual offence becomes a threat to your life or productivity? Let me answer this question before I round off.

As long as you are in the sphere of offence, you are to perpetually forgive your offender and not bear grudges or live in bitterness. That's the way we should act as true children of God.

However, there are times when the offence of the

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offender starts threatening your life and makes life hardly bearable for you. It's at such point that I encourage you to remove yourself from the sphere where the fellow can offend you.

What I mean is that you should distant yourself from where the perpetual offender can possibly offend you. This is not keeping malice or creating enmity; it's creating enough distance so that the person's unrepentant and unbearable lifestyle won't adversely affect your productivity.

Let me illustrate with these examples.

If he never pays back after borrowing, please don't lend him more money again unless you have plenty to spare. It's not quarrel; it's common sense.

It's wisdom that helps you recognise who to lend money to, expecting that he will pay back and who to give and not expect to get back from. Forgive him for his past ways; but don't give him a chance to offend you again by borrowing more money to him.

Your employee chooses to come to work late all the time and you keep forgiving him. When the lateness starts threatening the easy flow of work in your

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company, call him to order and when he persists, sack him! It's not anger; it's responsibility.

God gave you a company to manage for Him and He expects that you multiply it by at least double so that you will be a good and faithful servant. Sacking anybody that undermines productivity and efficiency in your company is obedience to God!

There are certain people you should have nothing to do with. You are both so incompatible that you shouldn't get close at all let alone stand at an offensive distance with. Two cannot walk together unless they agree.

If you mistakenly get involved with people that you don't agree with, they will perpetually offend you and vice versa. If such relationships make life unbearable for you or thwarting your life purpose, please sever it.

Please when I told you about exiting sphere of offence, I am not talking about marriage. As far as marriage is concerned, God hates divorce. Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us not to divorce unless on the grounds of infidelity. They are not the same at all. Marriage is sacred and should be honoured.

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Divorce is not an option at all. * Apostle Paul taught that even when you divorce, you cannot remarry. That's why if lives are threatened in marriage, separation is allowed; but not divorce. **

My point?

As long as we still relate with people, we are bound to forgive them all the time without any reservations. However, when his offence becomes a threat to our life and fulfilling purpose, we should exit the sphere where we can be reached and offended.

It shouldn't be about anger; it should be common sense to save the relationship. It is wisdom to become more productive and engage in more meaningful associations.

** Luke 16:18; Matthew 5:32; Matthew 19:6*

***1 Corinthians 7*

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