



In(Offensive)

“Now wherever we go he uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Good News like a sweet perfume.”

The Apostle Paul | 2 Corinthians 2:14

Have you met her? The woman with perfume so strong it lingered in the room for days, and remains in your memory still? By chance, could her smell be attractive to some? Another wears none, preferring a natural scent. Inoffensive, but will this draw the attention of others, leave a memory? Who's to say who might find one or the other's scent sweet? You might say the sweetness lies in the nose of the beholder.

As believers, our spiritual perfume is the Good News and, as Paul wrote, it's scent should linger wherever we've been, even etching into someone's memory much like that first woman's perfume.

Reflect: How strong is my spiritual scent? Does it linger wherever I've been?

Most fear being like that first woman whose scent is so strong that it offends. But do we equally fear being like the second, whose scent is

nil? Commonly, the fear of being offensive dominates, leading us to keep God's saving message in the bottle.

"Our lives are a fragrance presented by Christ to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those being saved and by those who are perishing." The Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 2:15)

Is the fear of those who might perceive your perfume as deadly preventing you from offering it to those who would perceive it as sweet? How might this change if you accepted that the appraisal of the sweetness of your perfume lies in the nose of the beholder, having nothing to do with you?

As Paul states, the same scent that is offensive to the one perishing, smells sweet to the one being saved. Are you able to distinguish who's who beforehand? Are you being obedient when erring on the safe side?

*Consider: **Stronger perfume offends many but it saves others.***

I've often wondered, who did the woman with the strong perfume have in mind when she pulled out her bottle? Was she oblivious that many would swiftly head outside when she entered the room? Perhaps she was simply focused on the ones who would remain.

"To those who are perishing we are the fearful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved we are a life-giving perfume." The Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 2:16)

Which will you have in mind as you get the bottle of the Good News out? Is the salvation of one worth the offense of several?

Imagine: Many I encounter are “sniffing the wind” for something sweet.

We seem to hate the thought that we might offend another. Somehow, we have adopted the idea that we are to strive to be liked by all, inoffensive. Is this what Jesus intended?

“Don’t imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! No, I came to bring a sword.” Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:14)

Jesus minced no words; his message offends many. Have you considered that you are his tool to separate those being saved from those perishing? Intensify your perfume, make it poignant and spread it wherever you go as you work to advance your Mission. Yes, you will offend some, but what about the others...those with their noses tilted, sniffing the wind for something sweet? Are you leaving a powerful scent? Are you...

In(Offensive)?

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach’s Questions

- On a scale of 1-10 (Strongest), how poignant is my spiritual scent? How could I move this up 1 notch over the next month?
- How will I convey the Good News as I work to advance my Mission?
- How will I integrate my Mission into my life so that I leave a powerful scent wherever I go?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Steep My Mission with the Good News.

"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes."

Apostle Paul | Romans 1:16 (NLT)



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