

STANDING FIRM: Your Uncommon Testimony

Andy Deane · 6/23/2024 · 1 Peter 3:8-22

Today's Scriptures will strengthen us to stand firm against an ungodly culture that's trying to knock us down.

What does standing firm look like: PROACTIVELY?

1 Peter 3:8, *8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.*

For Christ-followers to stand firm out there in the world, we must be strengthened by their church community. So...

- be like-minded
- be sympathetic
- love one another
- be compassionate
- be humble

What does standing firm look like: REACTIVELY?

1 Peter 3:9-17, *9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

When a lost world responds negatively to us, we respond with...

- Patience: Do not repay evil with evil
- Surprising grace: repay evil with blessing
- Prayer: his ears are attentive to their prayer
- Courage: Do not fear their threats
- Theology: be prepared to give an answer
- Conduct: keeping a clear conscience

What does standing firm look like: BY EXAMPLE?

1 Peter 3:18-22, *18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.*

It's difficult to take a stand, so consider these examples:

- Jesus: *Christ also suffered once for sins*
- Noah: *in the days of Noah while the ark was being built*
- Baptism: *the pledge of a clear conscience toward God*
- You: *declare how much God has done for you (Luke 8:39)*

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