

“Stand, Therefore”

Gal. 2:5; Eph. 6:13-14

Introduction:

- A. The truth of the gospel will continue even if we do not stand (1 Pet. 1:25).
- B. It will not continue *with us and many* if we do not stand, therefore:
 - 1. We must support the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).
 - 2. We must pass the truth to next generation. (2 Tim 1:5; 2:2).
 - 3. We must meet new challenges and threats in our time. (cf. Jude 3)
 - a. Church restructuring: expanded women's role etc.
 - b. Quality of preaching; Both *what* is preached and *how* it is preached (cf. Matt. 10:19 cf. NIV)
 - c. Moral permissiveness: Divorce and remarriage; Ethical looseness; sensuality.
 - d. Glorification on human wisdom.
 - 4. We must stand with those who stand up for the truth (2 Tim. 1:16; 4:16).
- C. Three requirements to effectively stand for the truth:

Discussion:

I. It Requires Thorough Preparation. (“having done all, to stand”)

- A. In knowledge.
 - 1. Of the truth ((John 8:32; 2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11).
 - 2. Of the opposition (2 Cor. 2:11)
 - 3. Of religious issues - internal and external (Apostles & first century issues).
- B. In practice..
 - 1. Purify souls by obeying. (1 Pet. 1:22,23).
 - 2. Put on whole armor of God. (Eph. 6:11-17).

II. It Requires Careful Evaluation.

- A. Evaluate the *nature* of the issue.
 - 1. A matter of preference or principle? (cf. Acts 15:36-40).
 - 2. A matter of faith or expediency? (cf. Kind of music a matter of faith; which song books expediency).
 - 3. A matter subject to compromise or not?
 - a. Some things can and should be compromised for peace. (Jas. 3:17; Rom. 12:18).
 - b. Some things must not be not be compromised for peace. (Gal. 2:5; 11-14).
- B. Evaluate *seriousness* of the issue.
 - 1. Is the purity of the church at stake? (cf. Gal. 2:5)
 - 2. Is the peace of the church at stake? (cf. Tit. 3:10; Rom. 16:17,18).
 - 3. Is the salvation of souls at stake?

III. It Requires Strong Determination. (“Stand, therefore”)

- A. Because standing firm is often unpopular with neighbors and brethren.
- B. Because standing firm is often uncomfortable. (cf. Acts 20:31).
 - 1. How can one enjoy rebuking anyone sharply?
 - 2. How can one enjoy withholding fellowship or expose one's error? (Eph. 5:11)
 - 3. How can one enjoy refusing to bid one godspeed? (2 John 9-11).
 - a. Yet, must refuse to do so either explicitly or implicitly
 - b. We refuse to bid godspeed to unscriptural churches, but do so to their members.
- C. Because standing firm is often costly.
 - 1. To personal relationships: family, friends, etc. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:20,21).
 - 2. To our temporal, physical, social, and material welfare.
- D. Because standing firm requires great faith in God's assurances.
 - 1. That it is best all concerned - Us, the church, and even the opposition.
 - 2. That the rewards are far greater than any problems it may cause.

Conclusion:

- A. “Those who stand for nothing, will fall for anything.”
- B. Take a stand by obeying the truth.
- C. Then continue to stand firm until the end.