

Stand Firm: Standing Firm When Your Friends Ridicule You

Sermon # 15, 1 Peter 4:1-6

Main Point: *Stand firm for Jesus against sin, the way He stood against sin for you.*

Getting to Know You

1. If you've had one of the following experiences, please describe the details to the group: 1) You used to run with a rough crowd, and when they found out you had come to Christ they ridiculed you for it, 2) You were so thankful to find out that an old friend who used to live a sinful lifestyle, was changed by a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Getting into the Book

Read 1 Peter 4:1-2

2. What examples from the life of Jesus show us that He went to battle against sin? (for example 1 Peter 2:21-24; 3:18) What are some practical ways that we can "arm ourselves" in this same battle?
3. What does this phrase mean and not mean, "He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin"? (Leader: it means that one who decides to follow Christ and battle sin has made a clean break from sin in his/her life. It does not mean that we achieve a level of sinless perfection, but rather we are no longer controlled by our sinful desires in an enslaving way.)
4. What purpose for our lives is described in verse 2? Discuss practical examples of this purpose.

Read 1 Peter 4:3-6

5. Why should we as Christians, make a clean break from our old pattern of sinful living? See also Romans 6:19-23.
6. If we are not to re-join our old friends in sinful living, how can we have an influence on them for Christ? See 1 Peter 2:9, 11-12; 3:14-16.
7. According to verse 5-6 why is it important to have an eternal perspective in all this? (Leader: verse 6 does not mean that the unrepentant dead will have a second chance to hear the gospel and respond. It means, "in light of the judgment to come (v. 5), this is why the gospel was preached to those (believers) who are now dead, so that even though they had to experience bodily death like all men, they now have spiritual life by God's will, because they believed the gospel message)

Getting Out There

8. What friend(s) of yours can we pray for to be rescued by Christ from their sin?
9. What area of your life do you especially need to "arm yourself" so you can do battle against sin?

Pray

Pray for Christ's salvation to come to your friends, and an opportunity to share the gospel with them. Pray for God's grace and power to battle sin in your life.