

Why Some Do Not Stand

INTRODUCTION

- A. This study provides many answers to the asked question, "Why some do not stand."
- B. Standing is imperative and absolutely necessary (I CO 16: 13, PH 1: 7, 17, Jude 3, etc.).
- C. Why, then, do so many fail to stand?

DISCUSSION

- I. Some are afraid to stand up for the truth.
 - A. 2 TI 1:7.
 - B. God has not given us the attitude of fear.
 - 1. Fear is not the word phobos which means "being scared, dread, or terror." Paus uses the word deilia, which means cowardice or timidity. This word is never used in a good sense.
 - 2. RE 21:8.
 - 3. This type of fearfulness results from not having true faith in God.
 - C. Instead of an attitude of timidity and cowardice, God has given us the spirit of power. Power is from the Greek dunamis. It is associated with God's Word. RO 1:16; JA 1:21.
 - 1. We are to preach the Gospel – the power of God – with all of our power. 1 CO 2:4. The apostles always preached with boldness – Acts 4:13; 13:36; 1 TH 2:2 and prayed that they might have that attitude in preaching the unsearchable riches of the Christ.
 - 2. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to pray for him – EP 6:19-20.
 - D. God has also given us the spirit of love. We are to love God first and foremost in our lives. MT 22:37. We cannot love God without loving His word. PS 119:97, 127.
 - 1. Because we love God, we also love men and their souls. MT 22:39.
 - 2. Speak truth in love. EP 4:15.
 - 3. JN 13:34-35.
 - E. Paul also says that God has given us a sound mind – this is an admonition, "to moderation and self-control" – a regulated life – a discipline life.
 - 1. Listen to Paul in 1 CO 9:27.
 - 2. Listen to Jesus in LK 9:23-24.
- II. Others labor under a false view of biblical unity.
 - A. EP 4:3-6.
 - B. Unity has limitations of peace. We must seek diligently and work doggedly to obtain and to maintain unity – in peace. However, this must not be at the expense of a worthy walk – 4:1; 1 PE 3:10-11 – for peace is not always possible – RO 12:18; 14:19.
 - C. The seven ones:
 - 1. One body – unity in organization – the church.
 - 2. One Spirit – unity in life – the Holy Spirit (Word Of God).
 - 3. One hope – unity in desire and expectation - this hope is in Christ.
 - 4. One Lord – unity in authority – Jesus Christ.
 - 5. One faith – unity in message – Jude 3.
 - 6. One baptism – unity in practice – there is one way to get into Christ.
 - 7. One God and Father – unity in worship – God has not changed.
- III. They do not have sufficient love of the truth.
 - A. 2 TH 2:10-11.
 - B. These are verses some do not want to believe and some brethren will never accept.

- C. The ones to whom God gives “strong delusions” (“working of error”) are those who have first rejected the Truth because they have pleasure in unrighteousness.
 - D. Since they join the ranks of that unholy tribe who love evil and reject Truth, God in His prudence becomes, now, their adversary. God is not mocked – GA 6:7. They cannot fool Him; He deceives “them” giving them “strong delusion” – two words here –energeo eudokia – energy & good pleasure – It is the pleasure in doing whatever seems good. They are resolved that “if it feels good, do it.”
- IV. They cannot stand the thought of possible family rejection.
- A. MT 10:37.
 - B. If it comes to making a choice between an earthly parent and the Lord, we must the Lord most.
 - C. Love produces obedience. 1 JN 5:3.
- V. They view standing for the truth as unloving.
- A. PH 1:17.
 - B. The ones preaching Christ out of good will do so because of the love which they possessed.
 - C. Love – agape – a love that determines to do the best for someone else. It is a love which comes from the intellect or will of the person.
 - D. These brethren were preaching the Truth out of the motive of love. EP 4:15.
 - E. Paul shows us the importance of the motive of love in 1 CO 13.
- VI. They do not want the reputation of a trouble-maker.
- A. Acts 24:5.
 - B. 1 KI 18:17ff – Ahab said Elijah was the one that troubled Israel but Elijah set him straight.
 - C. Paul was a pest – loimon – a pestilence, a plague – and a disturber. He was like a plague to the Jews – disturbing and upsetting them and their religion.
 - D. Paul was a “mover” – keneo – to set going, to move; to excite, agitate. He was a disturber of the peace and tranquility of the Jewish people worldwide.
 - E. To the Jews, Paul was all those things which they accused him. They despised and hated him with a great passion.
- VII. They are unwilling to risk any possible legal repercussions.
- A. Acts 5:29.
 - B. Any time people or government require of us that which is contrary to what God requires, we must obey God.
 - C. This is not an optional matter. We have no choice to make – no decision with which to wrestle.
 - D. We are required to obey “the higher powers” – government. RO 13:1-6; 1 PE 2:13-15.
- CONCLUSION
- A. RO 1:15-16.
 - B. Jude 3.
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 - C. We need to develop the character of character that renders us strong and convicted, able to stand all the onslaught of the devil and false teachers.