

First Thoughts

How has a decision you made (good or bad) had an unexpected impact on those around you (e.g. a move to a new city, taking a new job, lying, cheating).

Time in the Word

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13, Genesis 3, Acts 5:15.

When you know you have sinned, what is your initial reaction?

- Justify it
- Confess it
- Correct it
- Cover it up

Is your reaction different when confronted by someone else about the sin?

Discussion

What structures do you have in place to help you say "NO" to sin? How have you been helped by:

- Daily devotions?
- An accountability partner?
- Your small group?
- Church?
- Other?

What triggers help start the process of reconciliation with God and others? Have you been in a place you considered "rock bottom?" Knowing that God longs to bring us back into relationship with Him, why does it take getting to "rock bottom" to begin this process? Why do we conceal our sins?

Final Thought

Spend time in prayer. What is God asking you to confess? Is there unfinished business He wants you to address? Confession and reconciliation can be difficult, but the resulting restored relationship with God has no equal.



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Our Purpose
why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

Our Mission
what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

Our Core Values
how we do it

Worship - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
Connect - living in community, loving and supporting one another
Grow - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
Serve - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
Reach - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

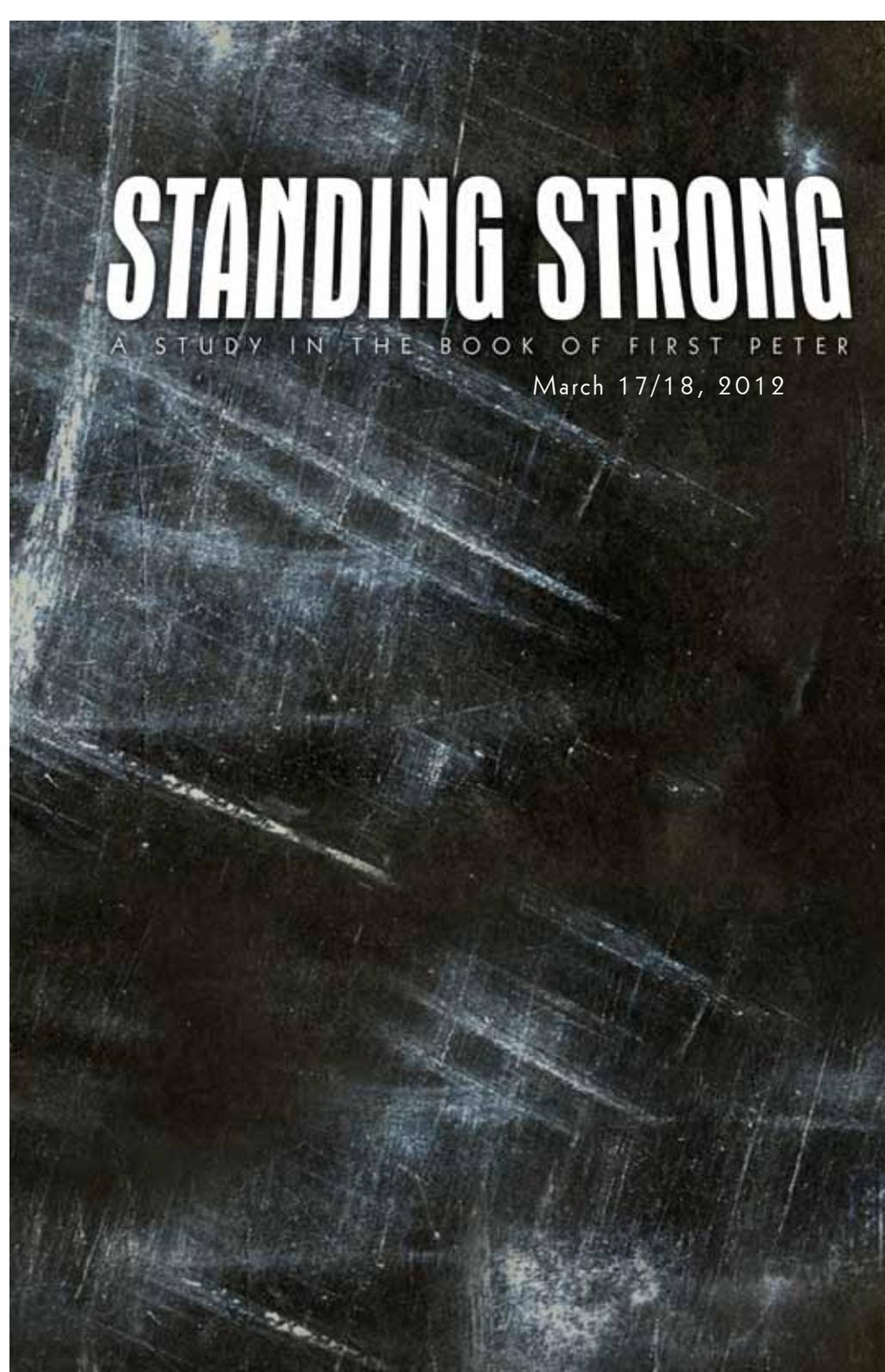
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STANDING STRONG

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

March 17/18, 2012

STANDING STRONG: Saying NO to Sin

1 Peter 4:1-9
Pastor Rick Countryman

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. Romans 5:12 (NLT)

When Adam sinned, it had a cataclysmic impact on everything, including you. It ruined your relationship with God. But God had a plan.

That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and they became very frightened. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord." Luke 2:8-11 (NCV)

Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. 1 Corinthians 15:22 (NLT)

Not only did God save you from the consequence of your sin, He also wants you to turn from sin (say no to sin).

Turn away from evil and do good. Psalm 34:14 (NLT)

You who love the LORD, hate evil! Psalm 97:10 (NLT)

Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Romans 13:14 (NIV)

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. Titus 2:11-12 (NLT)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

How to say NO to sin

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.

Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. But remember that they will have to face God, who will judge everyone, both the living and the dead. That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit. The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. 1 Peter 4:1-9 (NLT)

1. Remember what sin did to _____ . It _____ His life.

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain... Verse 1 (NLT)

Since Christ suffered in His body... Verse 1 (NIV)

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Romans 5:6 (NLT)

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8 (NLT)

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 1 Corinthians 15:3 (NLT)

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. 1 Peter 3:18 (NLT)

2. Remember to fill your mind with God's _____ the way _____ thought.

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had... Verse 1 (NLT)

Since Christ suffered while He was in His body, strengthen yourselves with the same way of thinking that Christ had. Verse 1 (NCV)

So then, Just as you receive Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)

3. Remember how you used to _____ and the _____ of that life.

In the past you wasted too much time doing what nonbelievers enjoy. You were guilty of sexual sins, evil desires, drunkenness, wild and drunken parties, and hateful idol worship. Nonbelievers think it is strange that you do not do the many wild and wasteful things they do, so they insult you. But they will have to explain this to God, who is ready to judge the living and the dead. Verses 3-5 (NCV)

4. Remember to stay close to other _____ Your church family is _____.

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. Verses 8-9 (NLT)

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4 (NIV)

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Hebrews 13:1 (NIV)

Two [people] are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)



Memory Verse

So do you think we should continue sinning so that God will give us even more grace? NO! We died to our old sinful lives, so how can we continue living with sin?

Romans 6:1-2 (NCV)

Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline and read through all the verses. Through which verse did God speak to you? Spend time meditating on the verse. What do you sense God saying to you?

From the sermon outline, how does each of the four steps remind you to say “NO” to sin?

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Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 4:1-19. From verse 1 and 2:21, what helps you follow Christ’s example when you are called to suffer?

How can you make the best use of the rest of your earthly life for the will of God (verse 2)?

How can looking at your past (verse 3) encourage you to live your life for the will of God?

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 4:1-19. From verses 4-6, what surprises your friends and family about the way you live now as opposed to how you lived before you became a follower of Christ?

How are you tempted to live like a non-Christian? Are there particular areas in which you struggle? How can you use God’s strength to live differently?

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 4:1-19. From verse 7, explain the attitude a believer should have.

Read Mark 13:33 & 35; 14:38, Ephesians 6:18 and Colossians 4:2. What do these verses teach about prayer?

List the things we are told to do in verses 7-11. Why should we do these things?

From verse 8, why do you think loving others is important? What does *love others deeply* mean? Who do you think Peter is addressing? Why is this significant?

What does *love covers over a multitude of sins* mean?

Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 4:1-19. From verses 9-11, how has God gifted you? How are you using your gifts to serve others?

What is the purpose for serving God and others? In whose strength should we serve? Why?

Where are you being prompted to serve?

How is God praised when you use the gifts He has given you?

Personal Reflection & Application

In light of Peter’s admonition to serve one another with the gifts you have received (verse 10), consider signing up for the next SHAPE class—offered on *1st Saturday*—to learn about your spiritual gifts and where you can serve.

Reaching Out

Sign up for **L♥ve Modesto** at www.lovemodesto.com.