

March 10, 2024 – Pastor St. John Eyre

SERMON NOTES:

STAND UP FOR JESUS



John 15:18-27

When you take a stand for something you will have people who agree and disagree. People who like you and people who hate you, but it is impossible to take a stand for something and please everyone.

When Christ came into the world, he drew a line. Not a line to cross or a line to avoid, but a line to stand upon.

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.” **Mat 10:34**

And since that time there has been a battle between Satan and the church and those who bear the name of Christ. Jesus identified this battle when he established the church.

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” - **Mat 16:18**

Being a follower of Jesus is not going to be easy, it’s going to create some enemies.

Apostle Paul wrote:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” - **Rom 1:16**

People have a natural tendency to want to be liked. Taking a stand is not easy.

Paul says that we are to put on the whole armor of God and then he says something interesting.

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” - **Eph 6:13**



If I please Christ it matters not who I offend. That's why when we come together, I don't pray that everything said and done here be pleasing to everyone who came but we pray that it pleases Christ

"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." - **Gal 1:10**

The disciples refused to succumb to pressure and continued to preach the name of Jesus.

Jesus stood up for the father and because of that the world hated him and after only 3 years of ministry nailed him to the cross and left him there until he died.

Now Jesus calls us to stand up for him and warns us that we will not be popular for doing it. For Jesus, when the teaching got tough, everyone with the exception of a few women and John abandoned him when he was on the cross.

Three things that Jesus did to show the world their Father:

We stand up for Jesus by

Being different

John 15:19 "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."

Being saved makes us different than the world.

1 Cor 6:9-11 - Don't you know that those doing such things have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers or homosexuals—will have no share in his Kingdom. Neither will thieves or greedy people, drunkards, slanderers, or robbers. There was a time when some of you were just like that but now your sins are washed away, and you are set apart for God; and he has accepted you because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Why?

To take a stand for Jesus we need to embrace the change that God has made in us and through us instead of spending so much time fighting it and trying to fit into a world system that we don't belong in. It's just like being a tourist. It's hard to fit in when you don't dress, look, and act like everyone else.

- Daniel took a stand when he did not eat the king's food or drink his wine.
- Jesus took a stand when he tossed out the moneychangers & ministered in Samaria.
- David took a stand and fought a giant.

Choose to take a stand this week, don't participate in the gossip, don't listen to the worldly joke, Choose to love when the world hates, choose to forgive when the world hurls insults



Drift – The Galatian church was drifting.

Paul wrote:

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - **Gal 1:6**

How does drifting start?

But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices - **Col 3:8-9**

If we see ourselves drifting back to be more like the world than Christ, we need to do something about it. It's all about the choices we make everyday

Removing the Excuses

Jesus said in **John 15:22** - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.

Jesus taught a parable in **Luke 14** about a man who put on a great banquet....and all the invited guest had an excuse.

Excuses are easy because they don't require anything from us. Moses had an excuse, Jeremiah had an excuse, Isiah had an excuse....

The world hated Jesus because he removed their excuse for sin. There was no more excuse to live like the world.

If we are to take a stand for Jesus we have to first remove the excuses for our own sin....

Some of our favorite excuses:

- "I just can't help it.."
- "You just don't understand it was the way I was raised."
- "My mom and dad didn't....."
- "Everyone else is doing it,"
- "I really want to quit, but...."
- "I didn't know any better."
- "I'm just too busy for God."

Jesus removed the excuse of ignorance from the world, there was no one left to blame sin and disobedience on except themselves and that's why they hated him.

Remove the excuses from our lives and not buying the excuses of the world. Everyone is accountable to themselves before a holy and a righteous God.



For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. -

Rom 1:20

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. -

Act 17:30

We are not perfect, but when we sin we should own it instead of blaming it on someone else, circumstances, or situations.

Showing the Father

The world hated Jesus because he showed them the father. In **John 15:21**, They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. Verse **23**, Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. Verse **24** says, ...they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.

Hello world, meet my father.

All other Gods are inventions in the minds of men, dumb idols that could not speak, hear or even move.

So Paul stood in the midst of the [a]Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. – **Acts 17:22-23**

Are you standing by being different than the world? Are you standing by removing the excuses? Are you standing by showing the Father to the world?