

Not Okay

Week 3: Standing Up When the World Wants to Push You Down

4-21-24

“Scars are the price which every believer pays for his loyalty to Christ.” - William Hendriksen

When we follow our own truth instead of God's, we attempt to silence His voice around us.

Not telling someone the truth is not loving them.

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.
– 1 Peter 3:14-18

4 Bruises for Standing Up for Truth

1. **Suffering** vs. 14 – even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake
2. **Fear and anxiety** Vs 14 - Have no fear
3. **Mistrust** Vs. 15 - be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks
4. **Slander and Insults** Vs. 16 - when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame

4 Benefits of Standing Up for Truth

1. **Blessing** – you will be blessed
2. **Comfort** – have no fear of them, nor be troubled
*³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort**, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction.* – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4a
3. **Peace of Mind** Vs. 16 – having a good conscience
4. **True Freedom** Vs. 16 - those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame

It is not our job to create problems, but standing up for truth may reveal some. (Ephesians 5:11)

Preparing Your Heart to Stand for Truth:

1. **Ask questions** – talk to trusted friends and leaders about the decisions you are wanting to make.
2. **Talk to Wise People** – be honest about what you don't know – don't just assume what you see on social media or hear from others is the truth. Investigate what God's word says and ask other adults their wisdom on the issue.
3. **Practice leading others with the truth** – live what you say. Speak out about the truth even in the face of opposition. Volunteer and teach others the truth – it helps to solidify what you believe plus it gives you accountability with others when you tell them what you believe.