

Stand Firm in Holiness

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Based on the "We Stand Firm" Series
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Opening Prayer

- Pray for God to help us recognize the seriousness of our time as modern-day exiles and to ready our minds for faithful living.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to stir in us a deeper desire to pursue holiness in everyday conduct.

Ice Breaker

If you could "gird up your loins" (get ready for action) for one big challenge in your life right now, what would it be and why?

Key Scripture

1 Peter 1:13-16 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, be holy, because I am holy.

Sermon Summary

As followers of Jesus, we live as modern-day exiles in a world that is not our true home—dispersed because of obedience to Christ rather than disobedience. This calls us to stand firm by readying our minds for the moment we live in and pursuing holiness in a timeless way. Because of our living hope in Christ and redemption through His precious blood, we can live set apart for God's purposes until Jesus returns.

Discussion Point 1: Recognize the Moment in Which We Live

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Point Summary: Peter urges us to "gird up the loins of our mind"—to get mentally ready for action and stay sober-minded. This means being alert in this time of exile, not numbed by feelings, distractions, or the "follow your heart" mentality of our culture, which can lead to shallow living and rob us of hope. Instead, we fix our hope fully on the grace coming at Christ's return.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some "intoxicating" influences (like emotions, media, or habits) in our culture that make it hard to stay mentally alert and sober-minded as believers?
2. How can fixing our hope completely on Christ's future grace change the way we handle daily challenges or feelings of being out of place in this world?

Discussion Point 2: Live in a Timeless Way – Be Holy

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:14-16 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.

Point Summary: Holiness means being set apart for God, not conforming to old ignorant desires or sliding with cultural norms. It's about reflecting God's character—completely other from evil—and walking down a "different street" when we know better. We're motivated by God's holy nature, His impartial judgment, and the high price of our redemption through Christ's blood.

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a practical example from your life where you've had to "walk down another street" to avoid old patterns or temptations—how did that feel, and what helped?
2. Why do you think it's challenging to base holiness on God's unchanging character rather than comparing to culture or other Christians? How can we encourage each other in this?

Discussion Point 3: Motivations and Practical Steps for Holiness

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:17-19 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

If you appeal to the Father who judges impartially according to each one's work, you are to conduct yourselves in reverence during your time living as strangers. For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.

Point Summary: We're motivated to live reverently because God judges impartially, and we were bought at the ultimate price—Christ's precious blood. Practical steps include openly identifying with Christ, immersing in Scripture, being salt and light, and sometimes excusing ourselves from unholy situations. This helps us stand firm as exiles until Jesus returns.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does remembering the high cost of our redemption (Christ's blood) motivate you personally to pursue holiness rather than presume on grace?
2. Which of the practical "holiness tips" (like immersing in Scripture or identifying with Christ openly) feels most doable right now, and how might you take a step this week?

Wrap-Up

As modern-day exiles with a living hope, we're called to stand firm by readying our minds, rejecting old ways, and living holy lives set apart for God—motivated by His character, judgment, and the precious blood of Christ. **1 Peter 1:13-16** reminds us: be sober-minded, hope in grace, and be holy because He is holy.

Challenge

This week, choose one practical step toward holiness: perhaps commit to daily Scripture immersion (like listening to the Bible at work), openly identify as a follower of Jesus in a conversation, or excuse yourself from a tempting situation. Share your plan with the group next time, and consider how it connects to our church's ongoing emphasis on faithful discipleship.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God for redeeming us with the precious blood of Christ and giving us hope in His return.
- Pray for strength to live set apart in holiness, alertness in this exile time, and courage to stand firm together as a community.
- Ask for God's help in applying one challenge from today in the coming week.