



The Good News

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Standing Your Ground

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We are bombarded on a daily basis with a message of tolerance from every corner: religious tolerance, the acceptance of the beliefs of others; tolerance of sexual preference, or otherwise known as the force-feeding of America the idea that homo- and bisexuality and their variants are natural and therefore just as acceptable as the relationship God ordained between man and woman; ethical tolerance, the weakening of the resolve of those in position to carry out justice dictated by our laws; social tolerance, or the erosion of discipline among family members leading to single-parent homes, individuals raising families perpetually on welfare because they're not required to do otherwise, and the list goes on. In all the weakening of resolves, in the softening of convictions, the breaking of commitments, the continuing demise of morals, the question is inevitable to any who take notice: what determines right and wrong if what we believe to be right and wrong are continually attacked and assaulted as incorrect? What or who determines the truth if the truth we have accepted is constantly under siege by those who simply do not like what the truth has to say about their wishes/actions/beliefs? Ultimately, what is truth? Is it an objective standard, immovable and constant, enabling us to always determine our place in relation to it through our lives? Or is it the wishes of those most vocal or those with greatest authority— i.e., a moving target?

History, it is said, is written by the victors but the words cannot change what actually happened—whether that truth is ever known by future generations or not. Truth is immutable, it is absolute, it is unassailable; regardless what a person does or says about it, the truth will exist and will remain unchanged. It is utterly fixed, and that is one of its most

powerful qualities—it can be counted on in every possible situation, in every circumstance. Tying yourself to the truth will provide a Christian with an anchor that cannot be overcome by the waves of lies, sin, cultural/legal/social pressure to conform to everyone else's wishes and desires and practices, to become **tolerant** of that which is untruthful. There is nothing else in existence that provides an utterly objective point of reference for humanity. There is only one truth, and we either accept it—all of it—or we hang onto whatever happens to be popular, or dictated to us, until more waves of change wash those opinions, those lies away like the sand on the beach. Eph 4:14 describes this very thing. It is far easier to stand our ground in the face of difficult spiritual circumstances when we allow ourselves to be held in place by an immovable force – the truth.

The challenges facing us, the winds and the waves if you will, come from every direction. They will easily be seen from our adversaries, and harder to recognize sometimes from those closer to us. After all, which is easier to do: to stand up for what you believe against someone openly attacking you or your beliefs, or to resist the softer, more persistent temptations from those who are close to you? For some it is the former, others it is the latter. Satan will use both. It doesn't matter how much we stray from the truth; any deviation, even the smallest, even for the shortest time—a “white” lie, a piece of five-cent candy stolen, just one answer on a test, etc.—is a sin. It is why standing for and with the truth is the most important thing we do as Christians: it is how God's Will is done through our lives. And it is the first duty and responsibility of every Christian. The truth, and nothing but the truth, so help us God.