



FATHER'S DAY SERMON
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HERE I STAND
1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION: Quote by Martin Luther spoken 500 years ago on April 17, 1521

"Unless I am convinced of error by the testimony of Scripture or by manifest reasoning, I stand convinced by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, and my conscience is taken captive by God's word, I cannot and will not recant anything, for to act against our conscience is neither safe for us nor open to us. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV) "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

PREMISE: The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead bolsters our faith, infusing us with the courage to "stand firm" in our allegiance and loyalty to the risen Lord, standing firm in the faith, in the fight, and in the family.

NOTE: Paul's exhortation to "stand firm" comes at the end of the resurrection chapter of the New Testament. Paul argues from the negative to the positive, saying, "¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless, and you are still under condemnation for your sins. ¹⁸In that case, all who have died believing in Christ have perished! ¹⁹And if we have hope in Christ only for this life, we are the most miserable people in the world. ²⁰***But the fact is that Christ has***

been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again (1 Corinthians 15:17-20, NLT).

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV).

1. HERE I STAND IN THE FAITH

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT) Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.

NOTE: Christianity is a doctrinal faith. Salvation depends on what you believe. You are what you believe. Paul said, “I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed . . .” (2 Timothy 1:12, NIV).

THE FIVE SOLAS: The Battle Cry of the Protestant Reformation

- Saved by grace alone
- Through faith alone
- In Christ alone
- According to Scripture Alone
- For the glory of God alone

“Be an expert on the Word of God, and you will always know what to say to the culture.” John MacArthur

2. HERE I STAND IN THE FIGHT

Ephesians 6:10-14a (NKJV) ¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand against the wiles of the devil**. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴**Stand therefore...**

Spiritual Warfare – Conflicts with demonic strongholds and moral deception that require non-carnal weaponry and spiritual armor.

Suit Up Daily In The Full Armor of God

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|------------------------------------|--|
| • The Belt of Truth | The truth that defines our identity and purpose |
| • The Breastplate of Righteousness | The righteousness of Christ received by faith |
| • The Gospel Boots of Peace | The gospel advanced with awareness of traps |
| • The Shield of Faith | Faith authored and perfected by Christ as a shield |
| • The Helmet of Salvation | Protection for the mind and way of thinking |

- The Sword of the Spirit
- Pray in the Spirit

The Word of God, the only offensive weapon
Pray with the mind of Christ, His heart & priorities

3. HERE I STAND IN THE FAMILY

Nehemiah 4:13-14 (NLT) ¹³I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows. ¹⁴I said to them, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

The Fatherless Epidemic: A father-absent society is pulling our society apart at the very core.

Resolve: Instead of fighting with my family, I will fight for my family.

Nehemiah’s Theme: Rebuilding What’s Broken

2 Corinthians 2:11 (KJV) We are not ignorant of [Satan’s] devices [designs, schemes, sly ways].

Note: Satan uses fatigue, frustration, and fear to wear us down in the fight for our family.

What’s a man to do? Four Things:

1) Request God’s Help (Nehemiah 1:5-11; 2:4; 4:4-5; 4:9)

2) Rally Your Family (Nehemiah 4:13)

3) Remember Who God Is (Nehemiah 4:14)

4) Reclaim Your Family (Nehemiah 4:14)

1 Corinthians 16:14 (MSG) Let all that you do be done in love.

James 1:20 (NKJV) The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

CONCLUSION:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (MSG) Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, Doesn’t have a swelled head, Doesn’t force itself on others, Isn’t always “me first,” Doesn’t fly off the handle, Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, Doesn’t revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

COMMENTARY

On April 17, 1521, Martin Luther faced the Diet (assembly) of the Holy Roman Empire in Worms, Germany. He had been severely critical of the pope, questioning the validity of some of the sacraments and denouncing church corruption. An archbishop was given the job of examining Luther and asked him, “Martin, how can you assume that you are the only one to understand the sense of Scripture? You have no right to call into question the most holy orthodox faith. I ask you, Martin—answer candidly without horns—do you or do you not repudiate your books and the errors which they contain?” Luther responded, “Unless I am convinced of error by the testimony of Scripture or by manifest reasoning, I stand convinced by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, and my conscience is taken captive by God's word, I cannot and will not recant anything, for to act against our conscience is neither safe for us nor open to us. ***Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.***”¹

Author Eric Metaxas says, “When Luther made it clear that he feared God’s judgment more than the judgment of the powerful figures in that room, he electrified the world. How dare anyone, much less a mere monk, imply there could be any difference between them? Since time immemorial, such men had spoken for God and the state. But Luther defied them, humbly but boldly, in a watershed moment in world history.”² This April will mark the 500th year since Luther uttered those words, which labeled him a heretic, and criminal. Yet myriads of people have since taken up the position Luther courageously defended, declaring “the Word of God the single source of doctrine and the only infallible guide to salvation.”³

IPHC Men's Ministries' theme this year derives from Luther's words, "Here I Stand." Our theme verse extols the courage Luther demonstrated in his historic stand. After declaring in eloquent terms, the resurrection of Christ, the Apostle Paul admonishes us in 1 Corinthians 15:58,

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm.**

Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to



the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."⁴ The great need of the 21st Century is men who will stand firm, "rejecting passivity, accepting responsibility, leading courageously, and expecting the greater reward, God's reward."⁵

Here I Stand In The Faith

The Apostle Paul admonishes us in 1 Corinthians 16:13, "Be on guard. **Stand firm in the faith.** Be courageous. Be strong."⁶ It is imperative men know what and why they believe.

Today's culture preaches relativism and intolerance for anyone suggesting there is an absolute authority governing the universe. It is counter-cultural to declare that certain things are true for everyone, that doctrine matters and that God gave us a set of objective truths rooted in who he is and not what we think or have experienced. Everything else in our lives flows from what we believe. Therefore, the declaration from authentic godly men today must be no less decisive and firm as that of Luther and the Reformers: "Here I stand!"

Here I Stand In The Fight

Ephesians 6:10-14a exhorts us, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities,

against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to withstand in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand. **Stand therefore . . .**⁷

A godly man is someone who chooses not just to survive life based upon the world's standards, merely hoping for something better to come along. Instead, a godly man decides to live a thriving life despite the circumstances around him. Often men



fail because they did not know, or understand, how to fight correctly. "The reality is a spiritual battle is raging all around you. A battle that men are constantly undermining, discounting, or even ignoring. Jesus tells us in John 10:10 that the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy. He is actively attempting to thwart even your best-laid plans. And like Jesus, in Matthew 3, it is important you prepare yourself for the battle ahead."⁸ "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."⁹

Here I Stand In The Family

A real man engages the battle within and stands in the gap for his family, wife, children, and grandchildren. Too often, men end up fighting with their family rather than fighting for



Instead of fighting with my family, I will fight for my family.

their family. Men's Ministries, in collaboration with Discipleship Ministries, will seek to equip men to be warriors, standing in the family rather than wimps

who abandon the family. A father-absent culture is pulling our society apart at the very core of its being, causing a fatherless epidemic.

Nehemiah, threatened by sinister forces of destruction, said, “I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to **stand guard by families**, armed with swords, spears, and bows. As I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and **fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!**’”¹⁰ Our great and glorious God has made us “more than conquerors through Christ, who loved us” (Romans 8:37).¹¹ We will fight for our families and prevail even as Nehemiah did by requesting God’s help, rallying our families, remembering who God is, and reclaiming our families.

“Here I Stand” is a clarion call to stand firm in the faith, in the fight and the family. It is not a call to isolation as a lone ranger going it alone. Instead, it is a call to stand in solidarity with a band of brothers whose hearts God has touched (1 Samuel 10:26).



“Stand up, stand up, for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross; Lift high His royal banner, It must not suffer loss: From victory unto victory, His army shall He lead, Till every foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.”¹³ Here I Stand!

¹Henry Bettenson & Chris Maunder, *Documents of the Christian Church*, OUP, 2011.

²Eric Metaxas, *Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World*, Penguin Books, 2017.

³Eric Metaxas, *Seven More Men: And the Secret of Their Greatness*, Zondervan, 2020.

⁴*Holy Bible*, New International Version, Biblica, Inc., 2011.

⁵Robert Lewis, *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*, LifeWay Press, 2005.

⁶*Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, Tyndale House Foundation, 2015.

⁷*Holy Bible*, New Kings James Version, Thomas Nelson, 1982.

⁸Eric Eaton, *The Thrival Man: 30-Day Devotional*, Eaton Creative Arts, 2018.

⁹1 John 4:4, *Holy Bible*, King James Version, Public Domain

¹⁰*Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, Tyndale House Foundation, 2015.

¹¹ibid.

¹²George Duffield, *Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus*, Public Domain, 1858.