

STANDING FOR TRUTH IN A CHANGING WORLD

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I've always loved the beach. I can recall many days spent on the sandy shores making sand castles, burying myself in sand, and throwing cold ocean water on sleeping people; you know, the normal stuff. I remember one activity in particular. I would wade out into the water, wait for a massive wave to come, and stand as tall, tough, and defiant as I could against the strong tide. Sometimes the wave would pass and I would still be standing; other times I would find myself knocked over and choking on salt water.

I've found myself standing against the tide many times, not in ocean water, but in my walk with God through this changing culture. It seems the older I get and the more steps I take in my walk with God, the stronger the cultural tide against me becomes. It's like I'm wading deeper and deeper into the ocean water.

When I was younger it didn't seem like such a big deal to tell people I was a Christian; my classmates were generally accepting of my choices and beliefs. But times are different now. I was once standing strong in the middle of the road; now I find myself in the ditch. I haven't moved, but the road moved. College professors tell me my beliefs are bigoted. Hollywood attempts to force their agenda on me. Friends tell me to ease up on my convictions because times are changing. Even my Christian friends are accepting things that were once considered sinful abominations against God.

Our culture is changing, and many who once held the truth are losing their footing against the strength of the tide. As the wind of compromise become stronger, the thought of buckling under its strength becomes more appealing. It seems that some would rather change Scripture than change our culture. As the church we must remember that God's Word never changes. Scripture must always be held at a higher value than cultural norms. We can't afford to change the Word of God to align with the world; we need to change our world to align with the Word of God. As the world waxes worse and worse, we must lovingly show others the truth of Scripture. We cannot treat the Bible as a menu from which we pick and choose what sounds good; the Bible is something that must be preached entirely and lacking nothing.

So if you find yourself like Peter stepping out of the boat into stormy seas, remember that you are not alone. The tide is strong and the storm is intimidating, but even they are subject to God's command. You may find yourself lacking faith and sinking, but God's hand is there to pull you out. And if you find yourself alone or discouraged, remember what the apostle John said: "Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

You can stand against the tide, and with the help of God you will.