

1 Peter 5:12-14 – Stand Firm in the True Grace of God
Sermon Notes – August 13, 2017

In verse 12 Peter summarizes the purpose of the book. He is “declaring” that “this is the true grace of God” and “exhorting” them to “stand firm in it.”

Peter writes this letter, so that they, so that we, will stand firm, even in trials.

- **Illus:** There is a danger believers would be like children, tossed around by waves. What God wants is for us to be like trees, planted by streams of water.
- **App:** The way that will happen, if we are standing firm “IN THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD.” Our spiritual roots, need to be planted in the true grace of God.

4 characteristics of the true grace of God in 1 Peter. 4 ways we stand firm in it.

1. True grace is unmerited and undeserved.

- a. 1:3 – He caused us to be born again, “according to his great mercy.”
- b. 2:24 – He bore our sins. He was wounded for us. 2:25 – We were straying.
 - i. Jonathan Edwards: “You contribute nothing to your salvation, except for the sin that made it necessary.”
- c. **App: Stand firm by trusting in God’s mercy and care towards you.**
 - i. At the beginning of the Christian life.
 - 1. Rock of Ages: “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling.”
 - ii. Ongoing Christian life
 - 1. Keep standing firm in this unmerited grace.
 - 2. **Illus:** Don’t slip into a performance mentality.
 - a. App: 1 Peter 4:5-7 – Who gets grace? Not the accomplished. Not the perfect. The humble.

2. True grace is transforming grace.

- a. 1:3 – He has caused you to be born again.
- b. 1:22-23 – We can love earnestly, since we have been born again.
 - i. Christ’s grace is not just a one-time forgiving grace. It is a heart-changing, faith-creating, love-increasing, life-transforming grace.
- c. Stand firm in this transforming grace, by pursuing holiness.
 - i. 1:14-16 – God has made you his children. Now, be holy.
 - ii. 2:19-20 – Do good, even when suffering. This is a “gracious thing.”

3. True grace is costly grace.

- a. **Illus:** Heinrich Heine said, “Of course God will forgive me, that is his job.” We should not have flippant, presumptuous attitude about grace.
 - i. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book, *The Cost of Discipleship* warned against what he called “Cheap grace.” Instead, he said the Bible

teaches “costly grace.” Above all it is costly because it cost God the life of His Son.

- b. Grace was costly for God.
 - i. 1:18-19 – Ransomed with the precious blood of Christ.
 - ii. 2:24 – “He himself bore **our sins in his body** on the tree.”
 - c. God’s grace is costly for us as well.
 - i. Not in the sense that we have to pay something to get His grace. See point #1. But the gracious call to follow Christ is NOT a call to a life of painless ease and pleasure, with no difficulty in this world.
 - 1. Bonhoeffer wrote that “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”
 - ii. 1 Peter 1:20-21 – Called to suffer.
 - iii. 1 Peter 4:13 – Rejoice as you share in Christ’s sufferings.
 - 1. Jesus put it this way, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up His cross and follow me.”
 - d. Stand firm in costly grace by following Christ, even when it is hard.
- 4. True grace is future grace.**
- a. 1:3-5 – We have a living hope; an Inheritance; full salvation is coming.
 - b. 1:21 – Because of Christ’s resurrection and glory we hope in God.
 - c. 3:18 – Christ was put to death, then made alive.
 - d. 3:22 – Christ has gone into heaven, where he rules over all.
 - e. 4:13 – there is suffering now, but glory is coming.
 - f. 5:4 – When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
 - g. 5:10-11 – God has called you to eternal glory, and He will restore you, and He has all dominion forever and ever.
 - h. App: Stand firm by putting your hope in God.**
 - i. 1 Peter 1:13 – Set your hope fully on the grace to be revealed.
 - ii. We have to live in the present. Why all this talk about the future?
 - i. If we are going to stand firm, and be faithful to Christ in the present, it is crucial that we understand God’s true, and future grace.
 - i. **Illus:** Our life is like a dot, compared to the line of eternity.
 - ii. **App:** If you follow Christ, you may share in his sufferings during the dot. But the line of eternity is filled with an inheritance, imperishable. A glory that is an eternal. A restoration that is complete. Let us set our hope FULLY in this true grace.