

Series: How To Stand Stand Up

Stand. When we're pushed to our limit, we have a choice to make. Will we choose the path of least resistance or will we have the courage to take a stand and stand up the right way, the right time, for the right goal and the right Spirit?

What comes to mind when you hear the word confrontation?

- Punishment
- Hostility
- Judgement
- conflict, clash, battle, fight, war, argument, resistance

What's your goal in confrontation?

- Is it to be a troublemaker, blast them, bring out the worst in them and disconnect with them? Why? Or
- Is it to perpetuate a cycle of retribution, retaliation, punishment, violent protest and destruction or of love, acceptance and forgiveness?
- Is it to be peacemaker, to restore the broken heart to heart connections and to bless them and bring out the best in them? Or
- Is it to be like Jesus and show them unconditional love, acceptance and forgiveness?

Two confrontational extremes

1. Some are **unwilling** to confront.
2. Some confront **unlovingly**.

Stand. When we're pushed to our limit, we have a choice to make. Will we choose the path of least resistance or will we have the courage to take a Stand?

How do we stand in the right way, right time, the right goal, the right Spirit?

This week's text is Daniel 4:19-34.

19 Then Daniel (also called Beltshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So the king said, "Beltshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you."

Beltshazzar answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries!

22 **That tree, Your Majesty, is you.** For you have grown strong and great; your greatness reaches up to heaven, and your rule to the ends of the earth.

23 "Then you saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, "Cut down the tree and destroy it. But leave the stump and the roots in the ground, bound with a band of iron and bronze and surrounded by tender grass. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven. Let him live with the animals of the field for seven periods of time."

24 "This is what the dream means, Your Majesty, and what the Most High has declared will happen to my lord the king. 25 You will be driven from human society, and you will live in the fields with the wild animals. You will eat grass like a cow, and you will be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses. 26 But the stump and roots of the tree were left in the ground. This means that you will receive your kingdom back again **when you have learned that heaven rules.**

27 "King Nebuchadnezzar, **please accept my advice. Stop sinning** and **do what is right.** Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper.'

...34 “After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, and I **praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever**. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal.

How does God want us to stand and confront others according to Galatians 6:1? What should be our goal of confrontation?

(Galatians 6:1 NLT) **Dear brothers and sisters**, if **another believer** is **overcome by some sin**, you who are **godly** should **gently** and **humbly help** that person back onto the **right path**. And **be careful** not to **fall** into the **same temptation** yourself.

Confrontation with Brave Love (Galatians 6:1 NLT)

1. God, help me to take a **humble and gently** approach to **help not hurt them**
2. God, help me to confront with the goal of **restoration**. Help me to be a **peacemaker**, to **restore** the broken heart to heart connections and to **bless** them and **bring out the best** in them. Help me to be like Jesus and show you're your unconditional love, acceptance and forgiveness?
3. God, help me confront with **caution**. Be careful!
 - Don't be a troublemaker, blast them, bring out the worst in them and disconnect with them
 - Don't perpetuate a cycle of retribution, retaliation, punishment, violent protest and destruction

Discussion Questions: Start your discussion by reviewing Pastor's key points.

1. Which of the two confrontational extremes do you find yourself most often taking?
2. What points above in confronting with brave love defined in Galatians 6:1 are you **most likely to do** in the heat of confrontation and why? **Least likely to do** in the heat of confrontation and why?
3. In what area below is God calling you to take a stand to confront in brave love defined in Galatians 6:1?
 - God, help me to take a **humble and gently** approach to **help not hurt them**
 - God, help me to confront with the goal of **restoration**. Help me to be a **peacemaker**, to **restore** the broken heart to heart connections and to **bless** them and **bring out the best** in them. To be like Jesus and show you're your unconditional love, acceptance and forgiveness.
 - God, help me confront with **caution**. Be careful!
 - Don't be a troublemaker, blast them, bring out the worst in them and disconnect with them
 - Don't perpetuate a cycle of retribution, retaliation, punishment, violent protest and destruction

Call to action (So what? Now what?):

- What steps will you take this week to stand up and confront with brave love?

Prophetic community:

1. Take 60 seconds to ask God, what does He love about the people in your group
2. Take the remainder of the time to share what God loves about the people in your group
3. Have someone close in prayer