

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org
Encouraging Christians to guard their heart May 2022

The Importance of Standing True by Steve Huston



Christians must stand for the truth. God is the Author of truth; He alone sets the standards. It's our duty to discern good from evil, teach the difference between the holy and profane, and proclaim truth in a winsome way. We cannot remain silent in a time when evil is hardly discerned; so we must study the Word, be in prayer, and strengthen ourselves through daily devotions. That's our responsibility; God, in His sovereignty, keeps His word, meets our needs, and sustains us.

When Christians don't stand boldly on truth, opposing falsehood, Judges 17:11-13 teaches that it's devastating to the believer (v. 11), gives the unbeliever a false sense of authority (v. 12), and gives the unbeliever a

false sense of security, misrepresenting God (v.13).

We, like this Levite, are priests too. **"But ye are... a royal priesthood ... a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"** 1 Pet. 1:9

What does it mean for Christians to belong to a royal priesthood? Priests live for the ones they serve. They served God by representing Him. As we represent Jesus, His character is to be the defining quality of our lives. "Jesus is our High Priest. He placed himself between God and us and caused God's grace to meet our need, and therefore we were redeemed. As Christians we stand between Christ and his Cross on the one hand and the world in its lostness on the other. Our business is to cause that grace of Christ and the need of the world about us to meet. As the Father sent Jesus to us, Jesus sends us to His world and

ours." (Dennis Kinlaw)

Jesus' life was a seamless whole. Whether he was showing compassion, dealing with sin, rebuking those who belonged to the "church," His life was worship and love for the Father and for man. Worship and holiness, driven by love, must not be relegated to our "spiritual lives" alone. It must seamlessly weave its way through all our pursuits because our redeemed and sanctified life has its source and sustenance in the one, true God who is holy and is love. Such seamlessness causes us to stand boldly and definitively for truth, regardless of temporal gain, loss, or persecution.

Now that we see who we are in Christ, let's look at Judges 17 to better understand the dangers of not "standing, having done all to stand."

First, it's devastating to the believer. Verse 11 tells us that "the Levite was **content** to dwell with the man." It's a gradual road that leads to contentment

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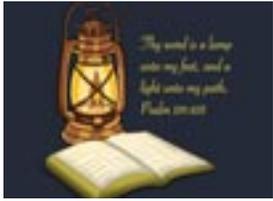
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in being unequally yoked. This Levite priest of the true and living God was content to turn mercenary for ten shekels and a shirt. Content? His response to idol worship should have been righteous indignation. Be careful; how often do we appear content before a watching world when given the opportunity to stand boldly yet respond with timidity, fearing confrontation or rejection? So often for less than ten shekels and a shirt. May God forgive us and help us to do better.

Next, verse 12 warns that our contentment with sin and silence in rebuking it gives the unbeliever a false sense of authority. “And Micah **consecrated** the Levite.” His consecration meant nothing at all; he had no authority to declare a mercenary Levite, who was set apart by birth unto God, to the service of this idolatrous false religion. Yet, by the Levite’s actions Micah believed he had authority.

How often is our silence and lack of “having done all to stand in this evil day” seen as compliance that emboldens the enemies of God to usurp God’s authority and reject His Word?

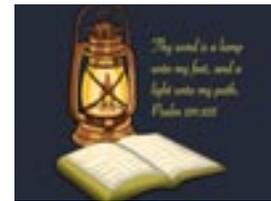
As a fire goes out both light and heat dissipate. Darkness has no power or authority over light and coldness is simply the lack of heat; yet as light and heat withdraw, darkness and cold take over. The same is true spiritually. When the light and warmth of holiness are ablaze within us there is no room for dark and cold. Jesus said that believers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Reader, we are meant to make a difference; when we go along to get along we are trying to hide our light under a bushel and our cleansing, preserving influence is lost.

Finally, not standing for truth gives the unbeliever a false sense of security, misrepresenting God. After the Levite was content to be unequally yoked (for a price) and after Micah usurped authority, consecrating the Levite, we read, “**Then**

said Micah, “**Now** know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.”

“Now know I,” prior to hiring the Levite Micah feared judgment. The Levite should have proclaimed the truth of the second commandment. Silence and active participation led Micah to believe God would bless his false worship. When we refuse to stand in love for God and in compassion for wayward men by proclaiming truth, we lend a false sense of security that their sin against a holy God is okay. As part of the royal priesthood we need to recognize that our silence and lack of action not only gives a false sense of security but misrepresents our thrice holy God.

We cannot afford to sit in silence; for “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Let us not be ashamed of the gospel but speak it clearly and winsomely. Live holy. Stand boldly. Speak with love.



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