

STANDING FIRM
1 PETER 5:12-14 / 1-8-20 / WED

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDS.

- A. God made us for fellowship.
- B. Peter is an example of a suffering Christian who relied on his Christian friends. He mentions three friends in verse 12-13.
1. Silvanus (KJV) or Silas (v.12).
 - a. Silvanus is Greek for Silas.
 - b. He is the same man who traveled with Paul on his missionary journeys.
 - c. He even went to prison with Paul in Philippi.
 - d. He is now serving with Peter.
 - e. He either transcribed this letter as Peter dictated it or he hand delivered this letter to the churches in Asia Minor or both.
 - f. He may have been well known by the churches because Peter referred to him by his name only. Or if not known by the churches, Peter adds that he is a “faithful brother”.
 2. “She who is in Babylon” (v.13).
 - a. “She” refers to the Christians with Peter as he wrote this letter.
 - b. “Babylon” specifically refers to Rome.
 3. “Mark” (v.13).
 - a. This is thought to be the same John Mark in whose house the final Passover with Jesus and his disciples took place.
 - b. This is also the same Mark who wrote the gospel by the same name.
 - c. Mark is not Peter’s biological son but his spiritual son in that Peter was a mentor to him.
- C. God’s family are to be close to each other according to verse 14—1 Peter 5:14a.

1 Peter 5:14a

Greet one another with a kiss of love....

1. Even today, in some cultures people greet each other with a kiss.
2. It's more than a handshake.
3. It's like a hug or perhaps "warm" handshake in today's culture.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF GRACE.

- A. The grace of God is a major theme in Peter's first letter.
1. He mentions grace eight times in these five chapters.
 2. He both begins and ends his letter by mentioning grace—1:2 and 5:12.

1 Peter 1:2

.... Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

1 Peter 5:12

.... I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God....

- B. It's grace, Peter says, that will be their anchor in times of suffering and stress.
- C. Now Peter concludes his letter promising that if we trust God's grace we can stand fast in the face of suffering—5:12.

1 Peter 5:12

.... Stand fast in it.

- D. Finally, Peter says it's also God's grace that will give us peace in the midst of the storms of life—5:14.

1 Peter 5:14

...Peace to all of you who are in Christ.