STAND STRONG, DAD

In this ever shifting culture the role of a Godly father never changes

<u>Fathers stand strong in Biblical truth and lead your family in courage, conviction, and compassion in the midst of our world's moral confusion and cultural relevance</u>

This may be my most important Father's Day sermon I've ever preached

Right now we live in a time of rapid change, morals are being redefined, truth is seen as relative, and the role of a Biblical family is always under attack

Boys grow up thinking they're girls, girls grow up thinking they're boys. We are made to believe that it's normal for males to be with males and females to be with females

But sin never remains the same, it's a seed that grows and changes its form, that's why the ridiculousness we see in our culture today is ever-changing.

Now genders are confused not only about their created gender, but if they're even human or some other animal form

Gen 1:26-28 NKJV Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over ^[a] all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that ^[b] moves on the earth."

Gen 2:21-24 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He [a] made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

"This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh;

²³ And Adam said:

She shall be called ^[b]Woman,
Because she was taken out of ^[c]Man."

God created man in His own image, He created male and female to be His image bearers in the earth. That's all He created, period. He created man to be with woman and they shall become one flesh, that's the only way He created this relationship

<u>In a nutshell, you were either created by Go</u>d or <u>you're confused</u>, <u>because He</u>'s not

God won't change. His Word won't change. And we the church cannot normalize what God calls a blatant sin against Him and His Word!

You have either been created by God or confused by the world.

So how did we get where we are today? Dad is not standing strong is a big part

Urgent call for father's to stand strong, men rooted in God's Word and

unshakable in our values

1 Cor 16:13,14 NKJV Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all *that* you *do* be done with love.

How do we stand strong?

1. STAND STRONG IN OUR FAITH V. 13

It will require courage to stand strong in your faith <u>but we must follow Joshua</u>'s <u>charge when he said</u> "as for me and my house, <u>we will serve the Lord</u>"

<u>Fathers</u>, <u>we are called to be gatekeepers of our homes</u>

Standing strong in faith means having a personal relationship with Christ and actually leading your family in truth

It requires discernment to recognize the lies of culture and courage to reject them

Make church attendance and spiritual growth a non-negotiable priority. Dads stand strong and give your family a firm foundation

2. STAND STRONG AND BE COURAGEOUS

<u>Dan 3:16-18 NIV</u> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us^[a] from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Even when facing cultural pressure, be courageous like Paul said in

Rom 12:2 NIV Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<u>In every generation there comes a moment when truth collides with culture.</u>
<u>Fathers must decide will we conform or will we stand?</u>

Courageous isn't being loud but instead faithful!

<u>Teach your family to think biblically</u>. <u>Don't be afraid of criticism for standing on</u> the Word

Fathers courage is protecting truth even when it's not popular!

3. STAND STRONG WITH GODLY CHARACTER

Psalm 1:1-3 NKJV Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ^[a]ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

² But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he ^[b]meditates day and night.

³ He shall be like a tree
Planted by the ^[c]rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

Men, strength isn't measured by dominance but by character

A godly father isn't strong because he controls his family but because he controls himself, his tongue, his temper, and his temptation

<u>Be honest even when it costs you.</u> <u>Integrity builds trus</u>t. <u>Ask forgiveness when you've failed – humility is strength not weakness</u>

Our strength as a father is not what we say but in how we live

4. STAND STRONG IN LOVE

Our world is so divided right now but even in the midst of all those cultural battles, love must remain central

1 Cor 16:14 Let all *that* you *do* be done with love.

The love of a father should reflect the love of our Heavenly Father

<u>I read this the other day and it was so goo</u>d – a <u>home led in Christ's love is</u> a <u>refuge from the confusion outside</u>

Some things I've learned as a father that God has taught me:

<u>Listen more than you lecture</u>. <u>See your child's heart, not just their behavior</u>

<u>Lead by example not by fear and love my wife in front of my children so it teaches</u>
<u>them what real love looks like</u>

<u>Standing strong in society today is not easy</u>. It <u>requires resolve</u>, <u>wisdom</u>, and the <u>Holy Spirit's direction and wisdom</u>

The Holy Spirit is our helper, comforter, strength, and our guide

<u>Fathers, if we follow His example</u> we <u>will become a pillar for generation</u>s. <u>Our stand today shapes our children's tomorrow</u>.

Our lives have a domino effect so men of God, stand strong