I recognised one of the spectators who had come to see the other team play. He was a former student from our school. He was getting more and more angry about the way the game was going. Our team made a shot and he cursed at our team's players. But he also cursed at the players on his team because they didn't reach his expectations.

I didn't like what he was doing, because it was dishonouring to the Lord. And I thought, *I should say something to him as a Christian brother*. But when I got my perfect opportunity . . . I blew it. I had a chance to stand up for what I thought was right and I wimped out.

I know we don't all look at the Christian point of view the same way, but I knew I should have followed through on my conviction to confront him. This may have happened to you at some point. Just remember that even when you blow it, God still loves you and offers forgiveness (1 John 1:9). He is patient and will work to make you more Christlike and to encourage others to follow Him too.

I was worried about what the angry guy would think, and what his friends around him would think. Perhaps I should be more concerned about what God thinks. —Loise Wanjai, Nakuru, Kenya

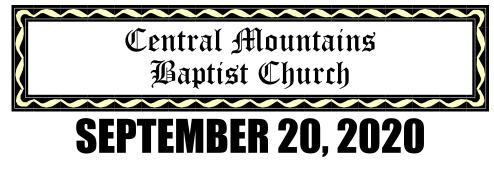
REFLECTION

- Have I had a golden opportunity to stand up for Jesus? What did I do?
- In what other ways can I stand up for Jesus?

• What can I learn from Galatians 6:1-2 to help me when I have to confront someone who is sinning?

When it's time to stand up for Jesus, don't just sit there.



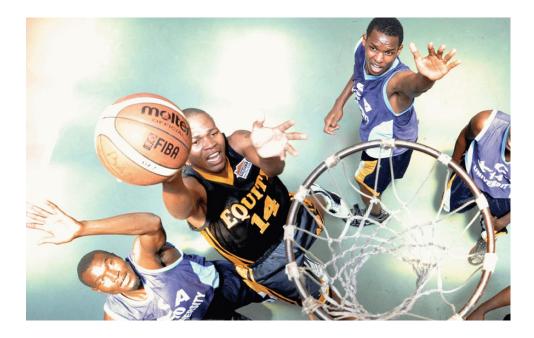


Stand Up for Jesus

Be ready to do whatever is good. Titus 3:1

Have you ever had a perfect opportunity to go to someone who did something wrong and tell him it was rude, or advise him that he should be more careful with his actions? But then you blew it?

I go to a missionary boarding school and we play sports against other schools (some Christian and some not). A team came to play basketball one day and it was soon obvious that they were losing pretty badly.





Church Restoration What to Expect From a Pastor III

(1 Peter 5:1-4) The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: [2] Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; [3] nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; [4] and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.



There are two aspects of pastoral life for us to learn from today

1. _____teaching, verse [From before. Such teaching includes: Obey authority/Do good/Respond to grace/Good words/A good attitude/A good heart]

#7. Be ready to , verses 14, 8

#8. the saints, verse 15

2. ______ service, verses 3 aspects of such service in Titus 3:

,verse 9 #1. Avoid

(2 Timothy 2:23-25) But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. [24] And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, [25] in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.

(1 Timothy 1:3-4) As I urged you when I went into Macedonia; remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, [4]) nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

(1 Timothy 1:5) Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,

(1 Timothy 4:7) But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. (2 Timothy 3:5) having a form of godliness but denving its power. And from such people turn awav!

(2 Timothy 2:17) And their message will spread like cancer. ...,

#2. Put out

(Romans 16:17-18) Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. [18] For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15) And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. [15] Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.





#3. Care for the _____, verses 12-13

(2 Timothy 4:10) for Demas .. departed for Thessalonica.. Titus for Dalmatia. (Ephesians 6:21) But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

(Colossians 4:7) Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell vou all the news about me.

(2 Timothy 4:12) And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

(1 Thessalonians 1:2-4) We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, [3] remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, [4] knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.