

which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

- In 1 Peter 1:15, Peter shows us that our standard is to be holy “as he which hath called you is holy.”
  - That’s a pretty high standard we’re called to!
- Titus 2 tells us that our standard is a standard that is different from the world: “separate”, “peculiar”, “holy”, “out from among them”.

**Titus 2:11-12** “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world...That he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

### III. Our standards are there to help us to keep our

**Conviction** = Something we believe strongly to be right or wrong from the Word of God.

- If I break a conviction, I’ve sinned.

**Standard** = Things we put in place to help us to keep our convictions.

- If I have high standards, and I break a standard, I’ve kept myself from sinning.
- Churches with \_\_\_\_\_ standards and a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit will experience less sin and heartbreak than churches with lower standards.

**Conclusion:** Everyone has standards. Everyone conforms. Where are we getting your standards from? Let’s get our standard from the Bible, and thank the Lord for the standards we have here at PBC.



# Why Standards?

- We have a great theme – “A Firm Foundation”. A firm foundation will keep our church strong for years to come.
- If we’re going to have a firm foundation, we must know what our foundations are, and why they are important.
- Tonight, I’d like to talk about one of our foundation marks/principles– the standards we have.
- As a church, it’s important that we understand why we have the standards we have. If we don’t understand why, we will not embrace them. And if we don’t embrace them, by default, our standards will drop, and we’ll have a worldly church.
- We will look at standards from two angles. First, we will examine what standards are. Secondly, we will look at three thoughts about “standards” in light of Scriptural principles.

## What are Standards Anyway?

- Below are the three definitions of standards, as found in the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.

**Definition #1** - *An ensign of war; a staff with a \_\_\_\_\_ or colors.*

- This standard identifies who \_\_\_\_\_.

**Numbers 1:52** “And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own **standard**, throughout their hosts.”

**Definition #2** *That which is established as a rule or model, **by the authority of \_\_\_\_\_ opinion**, or by respectable opinions, or by custom or general consent; as writings which are admitted to be the standard of style and taste.*

- In light of God’s Word, this standard identifies who \_\_\_\_\_ wants us to be.

**Colossians 2:8** *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after **the rudiments of the world**, and not after Christ.*

**Rudiments** = The \_\_\_\_\_. What society, what the world thinks is right, or the norm, or the “standard”.

**Romans 12:2** “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

**Definition #3** - That which is established by \_\_\_\_\_ power as a rule or measure by which others are to be adjusted.

- This standard identifies who \_\_\_\_\_ wants us to be.

**Titus 2:11-12** - “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world...That he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

**1 Peter 1:16** “Because it is written, be ye holy, for I am holy.”

- It’s important to realize that definition #1 is a result of conformation to definitions #2 or #3. We are going to conform one way or another. Either to the world’s standard or to God’s.

### Three Thoughts on Standards

I. \_\_\_\_\_ has standards, and everybody conforms. (Romans 12:1-2)

- Many say “we have no standards.” Everybody has standards, and everybody does conform.
  - The world has standards (rudiments)
  - Companies have standards
  - Churches have standards
  - Individuals have standards

- A good question to ask ourselves is, “Where are we getting our standards from?”

- It’s all about two words: \_\_\_\_\_, and association.

- Another good question is, where are we going to draw the line— with God’s Word or with the world’s standard?

- We shouldn’t use the world as a measuring stick for our standards, because the Bible says that the world is getting worse and worse.

II. Jesus calls us to a \_\_\_\_\_ standard (Matthew 5:21-45)

- In Matthew 5, Jesus raised the standard with, “But I say unto you”.

**Matthew 5:21-22** *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*

**Matthew 5:27-29** *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. – Radical standards for morality!*

**Matthew 5:33-34** *Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil*

**Matthew 5:38-41** *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.*

**Matthew 5:43-45** *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father*