

Series: Stand Firm

Title: Part 4: The End Of The World As We Know It

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Big Idea: If you're over the age of 25, you probably sometimes feel that today's world is very different from the one you grew up in. Some things are better, some things are worse; but either way, things are always changing. How should followers of Jesus respond to the constant change, especially changes we might find threatening? This week we looked at the apostle Peter's advice to the early church who faced similar questions as he encouraged them to seek God, stick together, and stay focused.

Passage: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Discuss It:

1. What are some major cultural changes you've noticed that make the world seem different than it was when you were growing up? What do you miss about the past? What things have improved?
2. 1 Peter 4:7 begins with the phrase, "The end of the world is coming soon," a mantra often employed by doomsday prophets and street-corner bullhorn preachers. Do you think Peter is using this phrase in that gloom-and-doom sense, or is he getting at something else? Explain.
3. **Read 1 Peter 4:7.** Peter was writing to a church experiencing heavy persecution, and in the coming years the persecution would only get more intense. We might have expected him to counsel the church on how to fight back or escape the pain, but instead he encourages the church to **seek God** through prayer. If you felt that your life was about to end, what sorts of things might you be tempted to do, and how might Peter's advice here help keep you on a better track?
4. **Read 1 Peter 4:8-10.** Peter also points to several practical ways for the church to love and care for each other; to **stick together**. Why is connection with other so important in times of crisis?
5. In one of the most famous passages in scripture, Peter writes that "love covers over a multitude of sins." Where have you seen this to be true in your relationships with others? Is there a relationship in your life right now that would benefit from this truth?
6. **Read 1 Peter 4:11.** Finally, Peter encourages the church to **stay focused** on how they represent Christ to each other and to the rest of the world. What do you think were the practical benefits of moving the church's focus from their problems to their opportunities? How might this same principle apply in your own life?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?