**Stand Firm in Grace**

**(1 Peter 5:12-14)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1.** In your own words, explain why it is slightly ironic that Peter declares he has “written briefly to you.” In what way(s) is Peter’s first epistle theologically rich and deep? What does Peter’s description of his writing (i.e., “briefly”) say about the apostle’s view of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

**2.** According to verse 12, what is Peter’s main purpose(s) in writing to these dispersed Christians? What do the words “exhorting” and “declaring” imply? What are some of the things that Peter exhorted them to do? In what way(s) are those exhortations grounded in God’s grace?

**3.** What does Peter mean when he calls us to “stand firm” in verse 12? Read the following cross references and explain how they shed some light on Peter’s meaning – Romans 5:2, 11:20; 1 Corinthians 10:12, 15:1; Ephesians 6:11-13. How does Jude 24 fit within the framework of these verses?

**4.** Read and compare Peter’s introduction (1:1-2) with today’s passage. In what ways do they echo one another? What does this say about Peter’s purposes in writing?

**5.** According to verse 13, what signs of affection were considered normal for the early Christians? How does the grace of God move us to similar acts of love and fellowship today?

**6.** Have you ever skipped over the introduction and/or concluding remarks while studying a New Testament epistle? If so, why? In what way(s) is today’s passage a good reminder to spend time studying them?How has rehearsing the gospel with yourself and other believers helped you to stand firm and persevere through suffering or persecution? How do you personally preach the gospel to yourself when trials threaten to make you stumble rather than stand firm? In your own words, explain why the gospel of Jesus Christ is the foundation and fuel for Christian perseverance.