

Becoming a Man of God

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

In the first 15 chapters of 1 Corinthians, Paul is lovingly correcting un-Christ-like behavior and theology. In Chapter 16, Paul is providing some final instructions, 5 final commands that I believe apply to the Christian man today! These 5 commands are: be watchful, stand firm, act like men, be strong, and to love. These five commands will set apart a man of God for His glory through His power alone.

Be Awake “Be watchful” Dads, Satan wants you to leave the discipleship of your children to the world. Satan wants us to fall asleep at the wheel of your family. We must be alarmed and alerted to the working of the enemy! Dads, Satan wants us to be so busy that we’re aloof of the dangers creeping into our families’. Discipleship belongs to us, it’s our responsibility. This phrase “be watchful” literally means to be “awake.” Peter says is correctly when he states in 1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

How do men become devoured by the devil? 1. They slumber instead of making the corporate and private worship of Christ a priority for themselves and their family. 2. They slumber instead of fighting secret sin by the Word of God and the accountability of other men. 3. They slumber as they waste their time in fantasy worlds instead of activity working in the fields of harvest for the Great Commission. 4. They slumber with their phones, devices, social media, and sports, when their families are thirsty for attention and affection. All of these things and more can be overcome through the power and strength of Jesus Christ. The next command in this passage really shows this!

Be Absolute “stand firm in the faith.” The Corinthians, were being taken captive by unbiblical demonic philosophies of this world! As Americans, this is a grave danger that we too fall into. The saying “follow your heart” is very unbiblical advice. To “follow your heart” has led to so many uncalculated horrible decisions, of divorce, adultery, and a whole list of other sins. In fact, this is what Hitler did, he followed his heart! The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 17:9-10 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” Men, be absolutely sure that Christ alone is it! Everything you do will reflect that! Do you believe this? Than you will apply this in everything you do! Your family will see this and follow you! Colossians 2:8 “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” The manual, God’s Word, tells us how to stand firm in Ephesians 6:10-18 in which it begins with applying the full armor of God through salvation, standing on the peace of the gospel, and being able to fight with the Word of God! Men, we must spend

time in God's Word, knowing it and applying it. In a world of uncertainty, be absolute in Christ alone!

Be Advancing in Maturity "act like men" or be courageous. This term was used by soldiers in 1 Samuel to prepare one another for battle. They were basically telling the other to be courageous. We are to be advancing in our spiritual maturity with the courage of Christ, not our own, but armed with the fact we are His. Men respond to conflict, difficult situations, and failure either through withdraw or aggression. As we advance in our maturity with Christ, we are armed with the courage of Christ, and can we respond with confidence we gain from our relationship with Him! The definition of courage is being scared, yet doing it anyway, knowing it is the right thing to do! What does acting like a man or advancing in maturity look like?

Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"

It's a life of love and sacrifice!

Be Armed "Be strong" The reason I used the word armed here, is because the strength we need is not of this world, it's not our personal strength, it's the strength that only comes from Jesus Christ!

Joshua 1:6-9 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." You will never be strong in your own power, you must depend upon God! Be armed with the strength of Jesus Christ!

Be Affectionate "Let all that you do be done in love" v. 14 May your affections be for Jesus Christ and for your family! **Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."** Every man is called to be a warrior, prophet, priest, and servant king. We are called to make much of Christ! Men, as we are becoming Men that hunger and thirst to lead for Christ, my prayer is that we never give up, slack up, back up, or crack up under the pressures of life and ministry. Instead I ask Christ to help us to look to Him for strength to get back up, to pull others up, and to know when to shut up, and to keep going until our time is up for our good and God's glory! I want our time of commitment to look different today! If your dad is here and he is physically able, join him at the altar and pray for him.