



The Manhood Manifesto: Quit you like Men!
10 Biblical Declarations for Men
June 17, 2018

Happy Father's Day!!!

1Co 16:13-14 (KJV) Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 14 Let all your things be done with charity.

1Co 16:13-14 (ESV) Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

If you all will forgive the detour back to 1 Corinthians today, on Dec 14, 2014 I preached a final message on this epistle entitled: "Be Watchful, Stand Firm, Be Strong!" In reading over that message, I thought a review might be in order:

IMPLICATIONS FOR CRCC FROM JUNE 2, 2013

1. Friends, we take scripture in large sections like this ultimately because we want this church and our lives to reform and conform according to the "mind of Christ." (1 Cor 2:16)
2. 1 Corinthians is at its core a letter of instruction written by the Apostle Paul to a church in the middle of a sexually perverse, pagan, idolatrous, "tolerant," and relativistic culture.
3. Those cultural dynamics made it a difficult place to minister and maintain any sense of unity. In the middle of all that, Paul proclaims a God-given standard in key areas; areas in which we still struggle today.
4. As we read and study this letter, I expect CRCC will be exhorted by the Spirit of God to reform more and more as we bring ourselves further under apostolic teaching, written by the Spirit of God Himself (2 Pet 1:21).

THE CONTEXT OF 1 CORINTHIANS 16:5-24:

1. As Paul concludes the letter, he writes a few personal notes as he does in other inspired epistles. In this case, he gives an update on Apollos, exhortations to be subject to and recognize leaders like Stephanus and others, and he reads greetings from close friends like Aquila and Prisca and the church that met in their home. He encourages unity displayed by "a holy kiss" and warns the church to love the Lord or be accursed.
2. Hermeneutically, it is always good to consider the genre of a text when interpreting. Being able to discern the didactic (or teaching) parts versus the personal greetings as an example, keeps us out of trouble. Clearly, Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus are dead, so WE wouldn't try to recognize them (v18)...nor do we expect Timothy to come walking through the door! (v10)

3. What we can glean from this sort of text are principles. The verses I'd like you to consider are 13-14:

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (1Co 16:13-14 ESV)

4. Here is the way I'd like you to approach this passage today: PERSONALLY.
 - a. Paul has taught this church much in this letter. They were to stand firm in faith as they received the Word. *How have YOU received the Word?*
 - b. What Paul taught requires maturity (acting like men not boys)! *Have YOU matured?*
 - c. Paul essentially reformed the church in critical areas and called them to be strong in the doing. *Are YOU strong in the doing?*
 - d. For those standing firm in faith, maturing, and walking in strong obedience, *are YOU doing all that in Love?*

1 COR 16:13-14

Although a greeting, it is still an imperative. This holy text sums up the mindset needed for the brethren to adhere to the Holy Spirit's instructions in the midst of the corruption of Corinth, and the persecution of the Roman Empire. The men were instructed to 1) act like men and 2) do all things in love (charity).

How men and fathers need the same exhortation today!

A FEW OBSERVATIONS JUMP OUT:

1. Men are commanded to watch. The Greek word here is *goreuo*; it means to "keep awake; to be vigilant."
2. Men are commanded to stand. *steko* is the Greek. It literally means to be unmoving. The implication is to persevere!
3. Men are commanded to act like men. The Greek word here is *andrizomai*; it means to "act manly."

What we glean from this salutation and see clearer through the rest of Scripture is a spiritual and practical posture that men and dads must have. A man's role is critical to Kingdom formation and expansion. Just as our sisters bring empathy and emotion, a man brings logic and steadfastness.

Today, a man who is watchful, stands firm in the precepts of God, and is manly in that process isn't the popular fella! This manifesto, drawn from the whole of Scripture, is meant to be a sort of checklist for men. We need courageous men and fathers, now more than ever!

1. I will embrace the call for men and fathers to lead. (Gen 2:18-25, 3:16; 1 Cor 11:3, 14:34; Eph 5:22-23; 1 Tim 2:12-14)
2. I will increasingly conform to the precepts, principles, and patterns of biblical manhood and fatherhood. (1 Kings 2:2-3; Psalm 1:1-2; 1 Tim 4:16; 2 Tim 2:2; Titus 1:9)
3. I will not harm women; I will love my wife as Christ loves the Church. (Eph 5:28-29; 1 Pet 3:7)
4. I will ask the LORD for and utilize increased wisdom in my personal and workplace interactions. (Whole book of Proverbs!)
5. I will not allow changing cultural movements and mores to strip me of my manhood. (Matt 13:1-23...the Parable of the Sower; Col 2:8)
6. I will be a continual learner because I'm called to be a priest to my family. (Eph 5:26; 1 Cor 14:35; 1 Tim 2:8; 2 Tim 2:15)
7. I will declare God's Word in my home, because I'm commanded to be a prophet to my family. (Gen 18:19; Deut 6:7; Eph 6:4)
8. I will work hard and become an excellent steward because I'm commanded to be a provider for my family. (Prov 13:7, 13:22, 22:7; 2 Cor 12:14; 1 Tim 5:8)
9. I will train hard and take care of my body because I'm commanded to be a protector to my family. (1 Cor 6:19; 1 Tim 4:8)
10. I will attempt to teach the Gospel to and inspire both biblical manhood in my sons and biblical womanhood in my wife and daughters. (Ps 78:2-8; 1 Cor 15:1-34; Titus 2:1-6)

Amen!