

# ACT LIKE MEN

12.8.2017

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



BE WATCHFUL  
STAND FIRM  
IN THE FAITH

**ACT  
LIKE  
MEN**

BE STRONG  
LET ALL THAT YOU DO  
BE DONE IN LOVE

## INTRODUCTION

- **Life is war.** I don't say that for dramatic effect, though the effect of living like that's true will be dramatic.
  - In **1 Corinthians 9**, the Apostle Paul compares himself with a **SOLDIER**. In **Philippians 2** he says Epaphroditus is his "fellow worker and **FELLOW SOLDIER**." In **Philemon 1**, he calls Archippus "our **FELLOW SOLDIER**." And in **2 Timothy 2**, Paul tells young Timothy, 3 "Share in suffering as a good **SOLDIER** of Christ Jesus. 4 No **SOLDIER** gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the **one who enlisted him**."
  - **So, one of Paul's metaphors for Christians, especially Christian men, is that WE. ARE. SOLDIERS.** And Soldiers fight. But fight against whom? or what?
  - In **ROMANS 7**, Paul says sin is "**WAGING WAR**" inside of him as he seeks to obey Jesus. In **2 COR. 10**, he says we are "**WAGING WAR**" as we tell people the gospel who are held captive by Satan. In **EPH. 6**, Paul writes, "Put on the whole **ARMOR OF GOD**, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." In **1 TIM. 1**, Paul tell Timothy to "**WAGE THE GOOD WARFARE**, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith." In **JAMES 4**, the Apostle James writes, "You have quarrels and fights because your passions are at **WAR** within you..." And in **1 PET. 2**, the Apostle Peter warns of the destruction of sin, "Beloved, I urge you...to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which **WAGE WAR AGAINST YOUR SOUL**." And in **ROM. 8**, Paul proclaims, "For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you **PUT TO DEATH THE DEEDS OF THE BODY**, you will live."
  - **Life. Is. War.** Sin **WAGES WAR** within us as we seek to **KILL IT** and obey Jesus; we wage a spiritual battle as we seek to tell others the gospel who are held captive by the enemy; and fight Satan's temptations.
  - **And this brings us straight to the passage of Scripture that we're digging into tonight. We're given FIVE commands, FOUR of which are IDENTICAL to what a General would cry out to a battalion of soldiers just before sending them into battle.**
- 1 COR. 16:13-14** 13 Be watchful stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.
- **If your faith is NOT in Jesus—if you don't have living trust and dependence in the living Jesus that's leading you to live your life in obedience to Jesus—then need to know that you are currently an enemy of God because of your sin.** You need to hear that. You need to feel that. You need realize life is short, hell is real and terrible, forever is a long time—and you're going to die. And if you remain in opposition to Jesus, by trusting in yourself and going in your own way, you will stand before Him and give an account.
  - **BUT I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU:** "6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 8...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." **COME TO JESUS THROUG FAITH IN WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE'S DONE!**
  - **May God use this message to STRENGTHEN those of you who are FIGHTING in the thick of the battle, may He WAKE UP those of you who are lazily SLEEPING in the trenches, & may He CONVERT through faith in Jesus those of you who are enslaved to sin, currently BELONGING TO THE ENEMY & not to the LORD JESUS.**
  - **Now, the Apostle Paul gives us FIVE COMMANDS.** He is an Apostle of Jesus Christ—He is speaking for the Lord Himself. Think of Paul here like your General. Jesus is your King, and your King issues these commands through his General.
  - **When a Soldier disobeys a lawful order in the thick of a battle, people die, families are ruined, cities are sacked, and lives are wasted. Don't make that error—life and death is at stake.**

# 1. BE WATCHFUL

13 **BE WATCHFUL**, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

- **Your General's first command on behalf of the King is one of DEFENSE.** "WATCH OUT! STAY AWAKE!"
- **Satan is real. You and your family have an *external* enemy and He hates you. Sin is real and it brings death. You and your family have an *internal* enemy and it specializes in killing joy.**
- **So the Apostle Peter says in 1 PETER 5:8** "Be sober-minded; **BE WATCHFUL**. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."
- **J.C. Ryle, in his little book, "Thoughts for Young Men," outlines 5 *special dangers* young men need to be warned against. I present them to you echoing Ryle, echoing Paul here and say, "WATCH OUT!"**

## 1. **Watch out for PRIDE.**

- Pride is having an elevated view of yourself; not knowing your place—seen by not listening to counsel or even asking for counsel. Pride is seeing yourself as wise.
- "Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him." **Proverbs 26:12**

## 2. **Watch out for THE LOVE OF PLEASURE.**

- **This was especially something the Church at Corinth needed to watch out for!** One of their members was in a sexual relationship with his Step-Mother! In addition, some of them were getting drunk off the Lord's Supper wine!
- **SEX** (in the mind or with the body) and **SUBSTANCE** (legal or illegal) are by far the two biggest seeds sown in men that grow the fruit of wasted marriages, wasted relationships, wasted days, and wasted lives.
- "Remember what I say:" writes J.C. Ryle, "if you would [cling] to earthly pleasures,—these are the things which murder souls... All is not gold that glitters. All is not good that tastes sweet. All is not real pleasure that pleases for a time." (J.C. Ryle, **Thoughts For Young Men, pg. 24, 25**)
- **Remember what the Apostle Peter says in 1 PETER 2:11**, "Beloved, I urge you...to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."

## 3. **Watch out for THOUGHTLESSNESS AND INCONSIDERATION.**

- **Think about what Solomon says in PROVERBS 4, 25** "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. 27 Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil."

## 4. **Watch out for CONTEMPT OF [CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES].**

- **This was something the Church at Corinth specifically needed to watch out for:** Because there were wolves coming into the Church and teaching false doctrine. **THEOLOGY MATTERS!**
- The Church, the Bible, Prayer, Singing, the Lord's Supper, Theological studies (reading good books).
- **ACTS 20:31** "[Wolves will try and devour the flock...] Therefore **BE ALERT**, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears."

## 5. **Watch out for FEAR OF MAN'S OPINION.**

- **Listen to Ryle again**, "Young men, be of good courage.—Care not for what the world says or thinks. Can man save your soul?—No. Will man be your judge in the great and dreadful day of account?—No. Can man give you a good conscience in life, a good hope in death, a good answer in the morning of resurrection?—No! no! no! Man can do nothing of the sort. Then 'fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings. For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool" (**Isaiah 51:7-8**).
- **Your general says, "WATCH OUT," soldier. Listen or die.**

## 2. STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH

13 Be watchful, **STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH**, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

- As false teaching bombarded the Corinthians, they were told to HOLD THEIR GROUND ON THE GOSPEL.
- As the Corinthians were tempted to be Sexually Immoral, especially by the culture they live in (sound familiar?!) they were told to STAND FIRM ON THE GOSPEL. How?

### WE STAND FIRM

BY REJECTING FALSE TEACHINGS that seek to enslave! (Galatians 5:1)

BY STUDYING THE WORD! (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

BY REMEMBERING THAT WE DO NOT BELONG TO OURSELVES but to Jesus, who died to ransom us! (1 Cor. 6:20)

SIDE-BY-SIDE ON MISSION FOR JESUS! (Philippians 1:27)

- Your general says, “STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH; KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS,” soldier. Listen or die.

## 3. ACT LIKE MEN

13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, **ACT LIKE MEN**, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

- Is he saying, “Don’t act like women!” Most likely not. He’s saying, “Don’t act like Children; act like MEN!”
- Just before in 1 CORINTHIANS 13:11 he says, “When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, **I GAVE UP CHILDISH WAYS.**”
- What do men do? Well, Children are ignorant; men WATCH OUT! Children are tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine because they don’t know the Word; men STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH WITH THEIR EYES ON JESUS AND THEIR NOSES IN THE BIBLE AND THEIR KNEES BENT IN PRAYER.
- Children RUN when they should STAND FIRM and STAND FIRM when they should RUN.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13-14 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 14 Therefore, my beloved, **FLEE FROM IDOLATRY.**
- 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18 “**FLEE FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY.** Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.”
- Children play with sin; when the GRENADE of Idolatry or Sexual Immorality is thrown into the trenches, children tinker with it; men FLEE, knowing they can’t even be near such things because they kill.
- Children are CONSUMERS, taking from their families; men are PROVIDERS, earning, saving, and planning for their families. “If you don’t provide for your families,” says Paul, “you’ve denied the faith and are WORSE than an unbeliever.”
- IN ADDITION, “Act like MEN” says Paul; not “act like a MAN.” We’re meant to wage war together. You’re not John Rambo, going lone-wolf against the enemy and for Jesus; you need a band of brothers, a battalion, a company, or you will die every day and you will waste your life. You need the local Church and the local Church needs you.
- Your general says, “ACT LIKE MEN; GIVE UP CHILDISH WAYS,” soldier. Listen or die.

## 4. BE STRENGTHENED

13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, **BE STRONG (BE STRENGTHENED)**. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

- EPHESIANS 3:14-19 14 “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father...16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to **BE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER** through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”
- Your general says, “BE STRENGTHENED OR YOU WON’T WATCH OR STAND FIRM,” soldier. Listen or die.

## 5. DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE

13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 **LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE.**

• If this WATCHING, STANDING, ACTING LIKE MEN, AND BEING STRENGTHENED is done without love for Jesus and love for others, it's all in vain. We fight sin because Jesus is worth it; we fight for the eternal good of our brothers and sisters, because they are worth it; we fight for our families because they are worth it. We fight for the advancement of the gospel because Jesus is worth it—because He's loved us and in turn we love Him!

1 **JOHN 3:16** “By this we know **LOVE**, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.” (*Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another*).

• **Make no mistake; this is war.** For the glory of Jesus and the good of others, we are being called to die. Die to yourself. Die to your childish ways. Sacrifice yourself for for the joy of others.

• **C.S. LEWIS at the very end of his book MERE CHRISTIANITY** “Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.”

• **Your general says, “DO IT ALL IN LOVE; LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR JESUS,”** soldier. Listen or die.

• The good news of the gospel is that though we fight in these battles, Jesus has already won the war. We're fighting battles that will one day be over—He lived for our righteousness, He died for our sin, He's arose conquering Satan sin and death, He's coming back one day to make everything new. Satan and sins throat is slit and they're bleeding out—because of Jesus' finished work in our place!

• **TAKE HEART, WE'RE FIGHTING A WINNING BATTLE. WATCH OUT. STAND FIRM. ACT LIKE MEN. BE STRENGTHENED. DO IT ALL IN LOVE.**

• **EPHESIANS 3:20-21** 20 “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”