

FATHERS: ACT LIKE CHRISTIAN MEN

(1Co 16:13-14) 6/21/18

Grace Bible Church, Gillette, Wyoming

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I. BE ON THE ALERT

- A. First Principle - The first principle is to “be on the alert.” The Greek word for “**alert**” is *grégoreō* (*fr. egeirō - to wake or raise up*) and literally means to arise from sleep or be watchful (cf. Mat 26:40; Rev 3:2-3). Figuratively, it means to watch and be vigilant.
- B. Present Imperative - Here the word is a present active imperative. They were to continuously be on the alert and be watchful (“You must keep on watching.”). In addition, it was a command (military) and not an option.
- C. Corinthian Problems - One of the Corinthian problems was that they did not watch over their spiritual lives and as a result sin entered their lives, their homes, and their church (e.g. impurity - 1Co 5:1, 6*; 1Co 6:19, man’s wisdom (1Co 1:18-21; 3:18-20*).
- D. Scriptural Admonitions - Scripture admonishes fathers to be on the alert in numerous areas.
1. Fathers are to be on the alert for the Lord’s coming (Mat 24:42)
 2. Fathers are to be on the alert in prayer (Col 4:2)
 3. Fathers are to be on the alert in holy living (1Th 5:6)
 4. Fathers are to be on the alert for the devil (1Pe 5:8)
 5. Fathers are to be on the alert for false teaching of “wolves” (Act 20:28-31)
- E. Fathers are to be on the alert and watch over their families’ spiritual lives.

II. STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH

- A. Second Principle - A second principle was that they were to “stand firm in the faith.” To “**stand firm**” (*present imperative of stêkō*) literally meant an immovable stance. Figuratively, it means to stand immovable in faith and duty. In this case, it means to stand firm in “the faith.” Here “**the faith**” (*tê pistei - with the article*) refers to objective Christianity in the sense of doctrine.
- B. Corinthian Problems - Another problem of the church at Corinth was that their misunderstanding of various doctrines, including the resurrection (1Co 15:20-28), the Rapture (1Co 15:51-55), spiritual gifts (1Co 12:7; 14:12), and (1Co 7:10-17).
- C. Scriptural Admonitions - Scripture admonishes fathers to stand firm in numerous doctrines.
1. Fathers are to stand firm in the doctrines in Scripture (Eph 4:14; 1Co 12:2-3*).
 2. Fathers are to stand firm in the doctrine of the Word (Jesus - Mat 5:17-18; 13:14; Paul - 1Th 2:13; Peter - 2Pe 3:15-16).
 3. Fathers are to stand firm in the doctrine of the Christ (Joh 1:1, 14; Rev 19:13).
 4. Fathers are to stand firm in the doctrine of the salvation (1Co 15:1-4; 1:17*).
- D. Fathers are to stand firm in the doctrines of Christianity and teach them to their families.

III. ACT LIKE CHRISTIAN MEN

- A. Third Principle - Paul’s third principle was to “**act like men**,” i.e. Christian men. The Greek word is *andrizō* (*fr. anēr - man, husband, male gender [not anthrōpos - mankind] 1Co 11:8-12 cf. Gen 1:27*). It means to come to manhood, be a man, behave like a man with the characteristics of a man. Since it is in the context of Christians, it is speaking to Christian men and referring to their spiritual maturity and spiritual courage. We especially think of fathers.
- B. Corinthian Problems - The Corinthian men were to edify but instead were self-centered in their pseudo worship (1Co 14:17). They were not only boastful but boastful in about sin (1Co 5:6). Ultimately, the men at Corinth lacked spiritual maturity and spiritual courage.
- C. Spiritual Maturity - Acting or becoming a Christian man first reflects the concept of spiritual maturity. It means that a Christian man does not act childish, immature, or self-centered. Instead he is to exhibit spiritual maturity in his thinking and attitudes. Paul exhorted them to act like men and not be like immature children in their thinking, (1Co 14:20*), actions (1Co 13:11), or doctrine (Eph 4:14*).
- D. Spiritual Courage - This is the only place in the NT where this word (*andrizō*) is found. However, it is used numerous times in the OT (LXX) and means to be brave and courageous (Deu 31:6, 7; Jos 1:6-9, 18; 10:25; 2Sa 10:12; 1Ch 19:13; 22:13).
- E. Source of Spiritual Courage - Where does spiritual courage come from?

1. Spiritual courage comes from meditation on the Word of God (Psa 1:1-3*). The Word of God becomes so ingrained in a believer's soul that he cannot, yea, will not compromise its truth no matter how many people pressure him to compromise.
2. Spiritual courage comes from knowing that the Lord is with the believer (Jos 1:8-9*; Deu 31:6-7; Mat 28:20).
3. Spiritual courage comes from obedience to the Lord and His Word (1Ch 22:13).
4. Spiritual courage comes from waiting and hoping in the Lord (Psa 27:14; 31:24).

F. Fathers are to act like spiritually mature and spiritually courageous Christian men.

IV. BE STRONG

A. Fourth Principle - In addition to acting like courageous spiritual men, Paul commanded them to be "**strong**" (*krataioō - passive - become strong*). It is in the passive voice because it is the Lord who strengthens the believer. In addition, it is the inner spiritual strength of a believer (Eph 1:19; 3:16*). Often the terms "be strong and courageous" go together (Psa 27:14; 31:24; 2Sa 10:12).

B. Corinthian Problems - The Corinthian men had no problem fighting among themselves and creating divisions (1Co 1:11-15) but lacked the fortitude to judge sin (1Co 5:2-3) and battle the enemies of the truth. The Corinthians were spiritually weak and were exhorted to have inner spiritual strength.

C. Scriptural Admonitions - Scripture admonishes fathers to be strong in numerous ways.

1. Fathers are to trust in the Lord's might (Psa 89:13; Col 1:11).
2. Fathers are to seek the Lord and His strength (Psa 105:4*; Neh 6:9).
3. Fathers are to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the inner man (Eph 3:16 cf. Php 4:13).
4. Fathers are to be strong in the armor of God in spiritual warfare (Eph 6:10).

D. Fathers are to have the Lord's inner strength judging sin and engaging in spiritual warfare.

V. DO ALL IN LOVE

A. Fifth Principle - The final command was to let everything "**be done**" (*present imperative - ginomai - you must keep on doing*) "**in love**" (*en agape - self-sacrificial love*).

B. Corinthian Problems - The Corinthians lacked true agape love. They were engaged in divisions and selfishness at their "love-feasts" (1Co 1:10-16; 11:18, 20-21). Though they had spiritual gifts they lacked the love needed to bring edification (1Co 13:1-8). In addition, instead of putting their liberties aside, they caused weaker brothers to stumble (1Co 8:11-12).

C. Scriptural Admonitions - The love chapter begins with a reproof against the Corinthians.

1. Though they spoke in tongues and had speaking abilities but did not minister in love, they were a clanging cymbal (1Co 13:1).
2. They claimed they had spiritual gifts in mysteries, knowledge (but lacked doctrinal knowledge), and faith. However, they did not minister in love, it meant nothing (1Co 13:2).
3. Though they may have been a wealthy church, may have been generous in their giving, and may have claimed they were willing to die for Christ, if they did not have love, it benefitted them nothing (1Co 13:3).

D. Attribute of Love - Whoever said that Christian men were not to be loving? Christ, the ultimate Man, was the most loving (Joh 15:13) and ultimate example in love (Rom 5:8).

E. Fathers are to be spiritually mature. In being spiritual mature, they must minister in love to their family, to their church, to the world.

VI. CHRIST THE ULTIMATE SPIRITUAL MAN (GOD/MAN)

A. Alert - Jesus was spiritually alert and watchful (Luk 22:45-46cf. Luk 22:31).

B. Firm - Jesus stood firm in doctrine and the truth of Scripture. That is why the Chief Priests were coming for Him (Joh 5:18; 18:1-3).

C. Strong - Jesus was strengthened and victorious in His struggle in the garden (Luk 22:41-44).

D. A Man - Jesus threw no childish temper tantrum. He did not plead His own case. He committed Himself to the Father's will (1Pe 2:22-23*).

E. Love - Jesus gave His life as the ultimate act of love to save sinners (1Pe 2:24*; Rom 5:8*).