

Act Like Men – 1 Cor 16:13-14

1 Cor 16:13-14 (p.962); I'm not ignoring v5-12, and we'll come back to them later on . . .
But I wanted to skip ahead to focus on v13-14, b/c they're *perfect* for Father's Day
While you're turning there, let me draw your attention to the insert in your bulletin, and
those who were baptized last weekend – what a great time together
And what a privilege to hear so many testimonies of God's grace in people's lives

This weekend, the message is Act Like Men; Which comes straight from the passage,
where Paul says in v13 – *Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*
[14] *Let all that you do be done in love.*

Now, if that's not a word for men, I don't know what is
Not just b/c of the phrase *act like men*, but b/c it's really simple, really clear, and really
short; Perfect for guys; And that's who I'm going to speak to
Ladies, you're more than welcome to listen in, and the principles apply to you as well
But I'm going to speak to the men, and I'm going to speak straight

That said, Paul's first injunction is *be watchful*; As in . . .

Perk up!

Clue in; Open your eyes; The point being – we can ill afford to live like hobbits anymore,
in the fairytale bliss of our small lives and white picket fences
Hoping that if we *ignore* the trouble around us, it will go away; Or won't affect us
It will; And it is; And it's not *going* away; The minions of Mordor continue to assemble
Trouble continues to brew; Morals continue to slide; Worship continues to wane

- And we need to perk up; We need to understand the times
Like the men of Issachar among the Israelites of old, recorded in 1 Chronicles 12
David had just become king, and the men from the various tribes of Israel were joining
him in droves; Most of them mighty men of valor, ready for war; Thousands of them

But from Issachar it says, came 200 – *men who had understanding of the times, to know
what Israel ought to do* (1 Chron 12:32)
All the warriors in the world wouldn't have mattered one bit, if there hadn't been men
who knew what to do with them; Men who were watchful
Men who were dialed in to the times; Men who knew the dangers; Men who perked up

- And that's how we should be; Men who see what's afoot, and know how to respond
Men who are watchful in prayer, and mindful of God
Men who read something more than the sports page, or watch something more than the
stock market; Or movies; Or whatever

We need to be men who read between the lines, and smell the battle
Men who perk up to the presence of *sin*, falsehood, and the malaise of *indifference*
Men who are watchful over our wives, family, church, community, and values . . .
In order to live holy, godly, and peaceful lives – *despite* the minions of Mordor and
Mount of Doom
Perk up to the times at hand, and be a man of Issachar

Second, *stand firm in the faith*; Or as Paul says it in 2 Thess 2:15 – *Stand firm and hold to
the traditions that you were taught by us*; IOW . . .

Stand up!

Perk up, and stand up; As in stand up for what you believe; *Firm in the faith*
Firm in your knowledge of the Word; *Firm* in your relationship with Christ
Or as Paul says in 1 Tim 6:12 – *Fight the good fight of faith*; Even if you're the only one

Men, God's looking for a few good men; Men who will stand up and be counted for
something *other* than the status quo
Something other than the lukewarm, go-along get-along life you're leading
Something other than what the crowd is standing for
Something other than what the culture is saying; He's looking

- Like in **Ezekiel 22:30**, where he says – “*I sought for a man among them who should
build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not
destroy it, but I found none.*”
The religious leaders were corrupt – leading people astray, failing to make a distinction
between right and wrong, treating the truths of God as common . . .
The prophets were condoning it – divining lies and supporting them . . .
And the people were robbing, extorting, and oppressing anybody they could get their
hands on; Sound familiar?

And God's like – give me a man, just one man, who will *build* up instead of *tear* up; Who
will *stand* up instead of *give* up; Just one
Someone who will *stand in the breach*; Stand in the gap; Who will do what's right, and
counter what's wrong in the land
Who will stand up for me, and the truth, and my people, and the poor; Just one man –
that I should not destroy the land
But I found none he says; Some of the saddest words in the whole Bible (**Ez 22:31**)

Therefore [God says] *I have poured out my indignation upon them. I have consumed them
with the fire of my wrath. I have returned their way upon their heads, declares the Lord
GOD.* It happened then, and it's happening now; With more to come

Which means, there's not only a breach in the wall, a breakdown of morals, a tear in the
fabric of our culture – but there's more at stake than just *your* life
And the time has come to take a stand; To stand up, firm in the faith, and be counted for
something other than a good job, a nice house, and a pretty wife*****

- What that means for you, I don't know; And if you don't either, ask the Lord
“God, what do you want me to stand up for today? What do you want me to stand up for
in *general*? What issues in our culture do you want me to through myself into?”
“What part of the church do you want me to serve? What gap do you want me to cover?”

Ask him; B/c the times are past where we can just ignore it and hope it all goes away
God's truth is being compromised; God's church is being marginalized; And God's
wrath is on the rise; Third, is . . .

Grow up!

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, [and] act like men
As in grow up; Be mature; Act your age
Act like a man, even if you don't *want* to

Or as 1 Cor 14:20 says – *in your thinking be mature*; Or Eph 4 – Attain to mature manhood; And *grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ* (Eph 4:15)

- Let’s just cut to the chase here – some of you are still boys in men’s bodies
Oh, you *look* like a man, but you haven’t grown up; You’re 20, 30, 40 years old . . .
And you haven’t made the transition from boys to men – not completely
You’re immature, under-developed, and juvenile
And I thought of 14 different caricatures to describe you; Starting with . . .

1. **Crass Boy** – he’s the one for whom it’s all about farts, burps, shock, and jokes
The more disgusting, the better; If it draws a response or gets a laugh – he’s in
Let me tell you something; If that’s you – you’re gross; Sick and wrong as my daughter
would say; And you just as well be wearing a sign around your neck that says . . .
“I’m Desperate For Attention”
2. **Video Boy** – where it’s all about gaming; hours and hours of it
Wasted time upon wasted time, in false realities and violent roles – that makes mush of
your brain, and stunts your social quotient; Not to mention your analytical skills
I’m not saying that video games are wrong; I’m saying that some of you need to stop
wasting so much time on them, and grow up
3. **Tough Boy** – you can spot this guy a mile away by his posture; Not to mention his
facial expression; And when he speaks, it’s always – “I’m tough”
Oh, he doesn’t say those words, but that’s what he’s trying to communicate
Meanwhile he shows no affection, lives for Ultimate Fighting, thinks humility is for
sissies – and never hugs his kids or his parents, and says “I love you”
If that’s you – you’re not tough, you’re insecure; And the great irony that’s *lost* on you,
is that everybody sees it, *except* you
4. **Porn Boy** – where it’s all about lust, sex, objectifying women, and masturbation
Are you going to do that the rest of your life? Don’t say no; B/c that’s the path you’re on
You’re gonna be 70 years old, desensitized due to all your indulgence, and going to
greater and greater lengths to get the same jollies
When are you going to put a stake in the ground, grow up, and act like a *man* – instead
of a *boy* in this respect? A porn boy

5. **Play Boy** – where it’s all about you, your toys, and your fun
Once again, don’t get me wrong – there’s nothing wrong with fun
In fact, followers of Jesus Christ should be some of the most fun-loving people around,
b/c we have life to the full, and the most to live for
But *play boys* take it to a whole new level, where fun is the primary pursuit of their life
Leaving them hollow and without substance; There’s no depth; You’re skin deep

At the other end of the spectrum is . . .

6. **Lazy Boy** – who does only what he absolutely has to, to get by; You don’t help your
wife; You don’t serve your kids; You don’t go above and beyond at work . . .
And often times you’re over-weight and under-disciplined
The quicker you can get to the recliner and turn on the TV, the better

7. **Loser Boy** – who can’t even *hold* a job, and considers a 12 pack is his best friend

You have no drive, no direction, no gumption, and no get-up-and-go
And your friends, if you have any, are losers as well

8. **Mama’s Boy** – still living at home, or still on the dole if he’s not; *Starting* lots of
things, but finishing few; And perfectly *capable* of supporting himself . . .
But intentionally lazy b/c he doesn’t have to
You leach off your mom and dad, or your roommates, or whoever will take you in . . .
And hope against hope that you’ll meet a really nice girl with a really good job, on
whom you can transfer your pathetic dependence; Grow up

9. **Anger Boy** – he has a short temper; he influences by intimidation; he flips out if he
doesn’t get his way; He’s overbearing, unstable, verbally abusive . . .
And feels best when he has the upper hand, or demeans people
Forcing those around him to walk on eggshells b/c their scared of him, or tired of him
Know anybody like that? You do if what I’m saying makes you mad
In which case you’re not a man

10. **Arrogant Boy** – this is the guy who thinks that b/c he knows a lot about a little, he
knows it all about everything; And *certainly* knows better than you
“I mean, you’re decisions, stink; If I were in charge, things would be *way* better”

11. **Authority Boy** – all is well with this guy, as long as you don’t step on his toes, lead
him in a direction he doesn’t like, or make a decision that’s not his
This guy is so juvenile, he has an issue with *anyone* in authority

12. **Passive Boy** – who can’t make a decision to save his life, and would rather follow his
wife even when he does
And she’s usually just the opposite – overbearing and manipulative; Enabling his
passivity that much more; But even if she’s not, he *forces* her to lead by default . . .
B/c of his lack of responsibility; She wears the pants, and he wears a dress

13. **Absentee Boy** – You’re either never home b/c of your job – which isn’t *your* fault of
course, you gotta pay the bills; Or when you are home, you’re not all there
You’re in the garage, on your computer, checking your phone, in your office, out in the
yard – but rarely with your family
I don’t care how much money you make on the road, or how passionate you are about
your hobby – if you’re an absentee husband or an absentee dad . . .
You need to stop rationalizing, and grow up

14. **Status Boy** – this guy prides himself on what he has, and does
From his home and car, to his business and wife – everything’s a trophy; And he *lives* to
have others see it; Or, see *her* as the case may be
Is that you? Do you *live* to have people ask you about your success? Do you love it
when people comment on your stuff? If so, you’re a status boy, and need to grow up

And one more thing on this, regarding your wife as a trophy

If she feels pressure in any way to enhance herself, surgically or otherwise, in order to
play the part or win your love . . .

If she feels pressure that way – you’re not loving her like you should

Either by your words or your silence, you’re making her feel insecure and inadequate

She should *want* to make herself beautiful for you, but never b/c she thinks it will make you love her more

Don't be a status *boy*; And don't force your wife to be a status girl*****

- 14 caricatures; And if the shoe fits, wear it; Admit it
And then make some changes; Grow up, and act like a man instead of a boy

And as you do, *be strong*; Or . . .

Bulk up!

That's Paul's next exhortation; As you perk up, stand up, and grow up – bulk up
Not outwardly, but inwardly; IOW have some resolve
Not on your own, as if you could – but in the *Lord*

Like Paul says in **Eph 6:10** – *Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might*
That is, under his influence and drawing on his power, you can be strong
And again in **Col 1:11** – *May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might*
According to the power and presence of his *Spirit in your inner being* – Eph 3:16

- Spiritual strength to act like men, comes from Jesus; It doesn't come from you
It comes from abiding in him; Walking with him; Talking with him; Loving him; Living for him; And being faithful to him*****

Like Paul says in 1 Tim 1:12 – Jesus has given me strength, *b/c he judged me faithful*
And **Is 40:31** says – *They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

If you're going to bulk up in your faith, your resolve, your walk – wait on the Lord, and be faithful in the meantime; *That's* where the strength is*****

And then last . . .

Build up!

That's v14 – *Let all that you do be done in love.*

This is the big umbrella that covers everything else; The principle and ethic and practice that should permeate our entire lives as men

Whether you're a teenager just entering manhood, or a grandfather looking back – let all that you do be done in love; Build people up

It's never too early, and rarely too late; B/c people are watching; Especially your kids

Take a look at this video (**I'm Watching You Dad**)

I love how one commentator put it when he said – “Love keeps our firmness from becoming hardness, and our strength from becoming domineering . . . It keeps our right doctrine from becoming obstinate dogmatism, and our right living from becoming smug self-righteousness.” (Mac, 476)

- Men, if we could get this one concept down, just this one command in all the Bible – *Let all that you do be done in love* . . .
It would change the world, and cover a world of sin

If we'd make it the passion of our life to be passionate about love – real love, biblical love, other-oriented love, steadfast love, sacrificial love, Christ-like love . . .

We'd go a long way toward acting like men; Real men (**Summary**)

And Father's Day, with so many watching, would be a good day to start
A good day to perk up, stand up, grow up, bulk up, build up, and man up

Pray – Lord, Thank you for your word that guides us; Thank you for your Spirit who helps us; And thank you for Jesus, who forgives us when we fail

Encourage now, the broken-hearted; Convict the hard of heart; And bless those whose heart is yours

We give now with a heart of love – love for you, love for your word, love for this church, and love for the lost