

From The Inside Out

1 Corinthians 16:13-24

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As Paul closes his letter of “tough love” he challenges us with:

I. The action of our public lives. Read verses 13 & 14.

Thinking about all that Paul has written to the Corinthians, and realizing that these phrases are all military terms, why do you think Paul uses this sort of language here?

“Be watchful”. What sort of things should we as believers today be on the alert for? What do you learn about “watching” from the following verses: Matthew 24:42, 26:41

“Stand firm in the faith” (see also 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, Galatians 5:1, Philippians 1:27, Philippians 4:1, 2 Thessalonians 2:15). What do these verses teach us about standing firm?

“Act like men”. What does Paul mean by this?

“Be strong.” Strong in what or against what or whom? How can you strengthen your stand?

In verse 14, Paul provides another reminder of the importance of love. What is the command in this verse, and what does it mean in relation to the previous verse and challenge?

II. The attitude of our private liberty. Read verses 15-20 and underline all the verses related to the fellowship of the church or action toward one another.

In verse 15 - 16, Paul shows a practical example of voluntary submission and discipleship. Paul notes the work of the house of Stephanas, and encourages the Corinthians to willingly submit to their authority. How does this speak to our need to submit to the authority of our servant leadership today? Where has God called you to lead others? Are you doing so?

How do verses 19 and 20 speak to the importance of fellowship in the church?

III. The affection of his personal love. Paul closes his letter "with my own hand". Read verses 21-24 and listen for Paul's affection for the Church.

What does Paul's warning (curse, Anathema) mean in verse 22? How does the first sentence connect with the single word "Maranatha" (Our Lord come)?

Thinking back on this "Letters To RDU" series, what significant truths has God taught you? How has it impacted your personal walk with Christ and public testimony? What is your next step?