

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS WAR, THEREFORE ACT LIKE MEN: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Act Like Men gathering - 5.27.22 - Sermon 1

INTRODUCTION

The Christian Life is war!

Saints are engaged in a constant battle against the unholy trinity of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

We have sins to mortify, families to protect, sinners to preach to, saints to build up, neighbors to love, temptations to resist, and a King to both enjoy and glorify! As we seek to do these things, there is conflict on every side!

- **One of Paul's favorite metaphors for Christians, especially Christian men, is that WE ARE SOLDIERS.**

- 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."

- **There it is: One of Paul's favorite 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 Christ.**

In 2 Corinthians 10, he says we are "waging war" against evil.

In Ephesians 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 Timothy 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..."

In 1 Peter 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 Romans 8, Paul proclaims "If you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you out to death the deeds of the body,

you will live."

- **This brings us straight to the passage of Scripture that we are focussing on tonight. 4 out of the 5 commands the Apostle Paul gives** are identical to what a General would cry out to his battalion just before sending Soldiers into battle.

1 Corinthians 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."

- **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, and may He *CONVERT* through faith in Christ those of you who are enslaved to sin, currently *BELONGING TO THE ENEMY* and not to the *LORD JESUS*.
- **Now, the Apostle Paul gives us 5 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.** Men, you and I must not make that mistake—life and death is at stake.

DOCTRINE: The Christian life is war, therefore you and I must be watchful, stand firm, act like men, and being strengthened by Christ we must wage war out of love for God and love for neighbor.

I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS WAR, THEREFORE *BE WATCHFUL* (v. 13a)

1 Corinthians 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."

- **Your General's first command on behalf of the King is one of defense.** "WATCH OUT! STAY AWAKE!"
- **CALVIN:** "He exhorts them to *watch*, in order that Satan may not oppress them, finding them off their guard. For as the warfare is incessant, the *watching* requires to be incessant too."
- **OWEN:** "To watch means to be on guard, to take heed, and to consider ways the enemy might seek to approach us and entangle us in baits and methods."

Listen, men: Satan is real. You have an external enemy and He hates you. Sin is real and it brings death. You have a real internal

enemy and it specializes in killing joy, destroying assurance, and wasting lives!

- **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 men need to be warned against.

I present these five special dangers to you echoing Ryle, echoing Paul here and say, "WATCH OUT!"

I) You and I must 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.
 - **Proverbs 26:12** "Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him."
 - **J.I. Packer:** "You cannot distrust yourself too much."

II) You and I must watch out for *the love of pleasure*.

- **Unholy sex** (in the mind or with the body) **and abuse of substance** (legal or illegal) are by far the two biggest seeds sown in men that grow the fruit of rotten marriages, poisonous relationships, wicked days, and wasted lives!
 - **J.C. Ryle writes,** "Remember what I say: 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." — **J.C. Ryle, Thought For Young Men, pg. 24, 25**
 - **Remember 1 Peter 2:11,** "Beloved, I urge you...to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."

III) You and I must watch out for *thoughtlessness and inconsideration*.

- **Listen to Ryle again,** "[Lack] of thought is one simple reason why thousands of souls are cast away forever. Men will not consider,—will not look forward,—will not look around them,—will not reflect on the end of their present course, and the sure consequences of their present ways,—and awake at last to find they are damned for [lack] of thinking."
 - **Think about what Solomon says in Proverbs 4:25-27** "**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."

- **BOYS AND YOUNG MEN:** You need to learn how to think before you speak or act.

IV) You and I must watch out for *contempt of spiritual disciplines*.

- **Q. What are these spiritual disciplines?** **A.** Bible study, Meditation on the truths of the Scriptures, Memorizing the Scriptures, Praying, Singing, Confessing sin, Self-examination, Church meetings, the Lord's Supper, Christian fellowship, Theological studies (reading good books).
 - **This was also something the Church at Corinth specifically needed to watch out for:** Because there were wolves coming into the Church and teaching false doctrine. **DOCTRINE MATTERS!**
 - **Acts 20:31** "Be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears."
 - **Colossians 4:2** "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

V) You and I must watch out for *fear of man's opinion*.

- **Listen to Ryle again,** "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**)."

Christ's general says, "WATCH OUT," Christian soldier. Listen or die.

II. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS WAR, THEREFORE **STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH** (v. 13b)

1 Corinthians 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."

- **Q1. What does it look like to stand firm in the faith?**
 - A. It looks a lot like Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego in Daniel chapter 2.**
 - **Daniel 2:16-18** "**16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered

and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. **17** If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. **18** But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

- **Q2. What can you do to ensure that will stand firm in the faith?**
A. You will stand firm in the faith if you devote yourself to the Scriptures, binding your conscience to the Word of God, memorizing the Scriptures, believing what God promises in Christ, obeying what God commands, and proclaiming these truths as you depend on the Holy Spirit.

I) You must stand firm in the faith by devoting yourself to *Private Worship!*

II) You must devote yourself to *Family Worship* if you would stand firm in the faith!

- **BOYS AND YOUNG MEN:** You need to learn from your father how to lead Family Worship, so that when you have a family some day you can lead them to Christ. If you do not have a godly father, or if your father did not teach you, find me after we are finished. **Come and find me, no matter how old or how young you are, and I will teach you.**

III) You must devote yourself to *Christian Fellowship* if you would stand firm in the faith!

IV) You must stand firm in the faith by devoting yourself to *Public Worship!*

Christ's general says, "STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH," Christian soldier. Listen or die.

III. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS WAR, THEREFORE ACT LIKE MEN (v. 13c)

1 Corinthians 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."

- **Q.** How must you and I "act like men"?

I) You and I must act like men by refusing to act like women (1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NASB95).

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** "9 Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God."
 - **Women are designed by God to be feminine** and they must therefore act like it— this is a glorious thing!
 - **Men are forbidden from being effeminate, because they are designed and commanded by God to be masculine.** You and I must therefore act like it—this is also a glorious thing!
 - **BOYS AND YOUNG MEN:** Boys and girls are not the same thing. Men and women are not the same thing. God created men with a different nature than women. You must not act like a girl or act like a women. You and I must "act like men."

(I) Women are the weaker vessel (1 Peter 3:7); Men must be strong.

(II) Women are softer (1 Peter 3:7), Men must be firm.

(III) Women are designed and commanded to follow and submit; Men are designed and commanded to exercise authority and lead (Ephesians 5:22-25).

- [#MakeEffeminateMenShamefulAgain](#)
- **ZACHARY GARRIS:** "We know from the rest of Scripture that a man is supposed to protect, provide, and lead. A man who does not do these things is effeminate. He is not acting like a man. A man who refuses to work and provide for his family and leaves that task to his wife is effeminate. A man who does not protect his wife and children from harm is an effeminate man. A man who leaves spiritual leadership to his wife is effeminate. Such men will not inherit God's kingdom." — **Masculine Christianity, Zachary Garris**

II) You and I must act like men by refusing to act like children (1 Corinthians 13:11).

- **1 Corinthians 13:11** "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."
- **Q. What does it look like to "give up childish ways"?**
 - A1. Children are ignorant or apathetic;** Men "watch out"!

A2. Children are tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine because they do not know the Scriptures; Men "stand firm in the faith" with their eyes fixed on Jesus, their noses in the Bible, their knees bent in prayer, and their voices lifted up like a trumpet, declaring the whole counsel of God to both sinners and saints alike.

BOYS AND YOUNG MEN: You need to learn from your father how to act like men. You cannot remain boys forever. **You must give up childish ways!**

If you do not have a godly father who is teaching you or who has taught you how to act like men, you need to go to one of the faithful men in your church and ask them to help you act like a man!

III) You and I must act like men by fleeing from temptations to sin (1 Corinthians 10:13-14).

- **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."
 - **Children run when they should stand firm and stand firm when they should run.**

IV) You and I must act like men by fleeing from sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:8).

- **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 cannot even be near such things because they kill.**

V) You and I must act like men by providing for our families both physically and spiritually (1 Timothy 5:8).

- **1 Timothy 5:8** "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."
 - **(I) Physically** (1 Timothy 5:8).
 - **(II) Spiritually** (Wives in Ephesians 5; Children in Ephesians 6 and Deuteronomy 6).

VI) You and I must act like men by protecting our families, our church, and our neighbors (Genesis 2:15; Numbers 1:2-3; Ephesians 5:25).

- **(I) It was Adam that was to protect Eve in the garden** (Genesis 2:15).
 - **Genesis 2:15** "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." **the word translated 'keep' in the ESV means to "guard, protect, preserve, watch out for."*
- **(II) It was men who were go to war in Israel** (Numbers 1:2-3).
 - **Numbers 1:2-3** "2 Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names, *every male*, head by head. 3 From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company."
- **(III) It is husbands who are to lay down their lives for their wives** (Ephesians 5:25).
 - **Ephesians 5:25** "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."
- **ZACHARY GARRIS:** "Roles to protect and provide are wrapped up in man's nature. Men are physically stronger than women (1 Peter 3:7), and they are not hindered from work by pregnancy and nursing (Titus 2:4-5). Biology matters when it comes to gender roles and life tasks!"

Why is it Adam's job to guard, the men's job to war, and the husbands job to sacrifice? Because God built men to protect!

- **BOYS AND YOUNG MEN:** Men protect women. You must never hurt a girl or a woman. And if you ever see or hear about someone hurting a girl or a woman in any way, you must put a stop to it! **Men protect girls and women no matter the cost. Do you understand, boys and young men?**

VII) You and I must act like men together (1 Corinthians 16:13).

- **Christ says through Paul,** "Act like *men*" not "act like a *man*." You and I are meant to wage war together. You must not be a lone-wolf fighting against the *enemy* and *for* Christ; 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.

Do not be deceived. You cannot "act like men." Only we, together, can "act like men." You cannot make it on your own!

Christ's general says, "ACT LIKE MEN" Christian soldier. Listen or die.

IV. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS WAR, THEREFORE *GET STRENGTH FROM CHRIST BY FAITH AND PRAYER* (v. 13d)

1 Corinthians 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."

- **Q. What does it look like to "Be strengthened"?**
- A. To be strengthened by Christ looks like asking God for strength and depending on His might, rather than your own abilities or power.**
 - **Ephesians 6:10** "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."
 - **CALVIN:** "[Paul] exhorts [the Ephesians] to be courageous, but at the same time reminds them to ask from God a supply of their own deficiencies, and promises that, in answer to their prayers, the power of God will be displayed."
 - **1 Samuel 30:6** "David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God."
- **Your strength will not do! You must be strengthened by Christ.**
- **BOYS AND YOUNG MEN:** You and I do not have enough strength to live for Jesus. We need Him to strengthen us. You need Him to strengthen you. Ask for strength and trust Him to provide.

Christ's general says, "GET STRENGTH FROM CHRIST," Christian soldier. Listen and live.

V. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS WAR, AND *ALL THE WARFARE WE WAGE MUST BE DONE IN LOVE* (v. 14)

1 Corinthians 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."

I HAVE 3 QUESTIONS TO ASK AND ANSWER:

I) **Question 1.** What if you and I are faithful to “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men,” and “be strong” but we have not love?

- **A.** If we do not have love, everything else is useless. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

II) **Question 2.** What does love look like in general?

- **A.** God defines what love looks like in general in **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**. **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** “**4** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **7** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

III) **Question 3.** What does love look like in specific in regard to **1 Corinthians 16:13**?

- **A.** God defines what love looks like in specific in **1 John 3:16**. **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.” **Note: love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another.*
 - **Make no mistake; the Christian life is war.** For the good of others, the gladness of yourself, and for the glory of God you and I must lay down our lives! Die to yourself. Die to your childish ways. Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2).

BTW: All this warfare that you wage must be done not for love of warfare, but for love of God and family and saints and neighbor!

- **Like Faramir in Tolkien's famous tale, we must say,** “I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness, nor the arrow for its swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend.”

Christ's general says, “WAGE WARFARE IN LOVE,” Christian soldier. Listen and live.

CONCLUSION

- **The good news is that though we fight in these battles, Christ has already won the war.** We are engaged in conflicts that will one day be over!
 - **If your faith is in Christ Jesus, or if you would repent of your sin and submit to Him today,**
 - Christ lived for your righteousness, He died for your sin, He arose conquering Satan, sin, and death and your behalf.
 - If you are in Christ by faith, He is interceding for you at the right hand of God the Father as He rules, reigns, and conquers the nations through His church.
 - If you belong to Jesus, He is coming back one day to make everything new, even you.
 - LOOK:** Satan and sin's throats are slit and they are bleeding out.
- **TAKE HEART, WE ARE FIGHTING A WINNING BATTLE!**
WATCH OUT. STAND FIRM. ACT LIKE MEN. BE STRENGTHENED. DO IT ALL IN LOVE.

BOYS AND YOUNG MEN AND GROWN MEN, LOOK AT ME:

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet"
(Romans 16:20).

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

"grēgoreō"
13 Be watchful,

V-PA(M)-2P

(Keep awake) Be vigilant

C.F.

Col. 4:2

Matt. 26:41

Luke 12:37

Acts 20:31

1 Thess. 5:6

(Give strict attention to) Be cautious, lest some destruction or calamity suddenly overtake you.

1 Pet. 5:8

Rev. 3:2-3

Rev. 16:15

"stēkō" "pistis"
stand firm in the faith,

V-PA(M)-2P prep. def.

(Stand fast)

C.F.

Gal. 5:1

Phil. 1:27

Phil. 4:1

2 Tim. 2:15

(Persevere)

"randrizomai"
act like men,

(only time in the NT)

V-PM(M)-2P

(not a boy) Bravery

(Act manly) Show yourself to be a man, brave and wise (wise = Matt 7:24).

"krataiō"
be strong.

V-PA(M)-2P

C.F.

Luke 1:80

Luke 2:40

Eph. 3:16

(Be strengthened)

(increase in strength)

"pas" "ginomai" "agapē"
14 Let all that you do be done in love.

V-PM(M)-3S prep.