

J.J.

BE THE MAN
1 Corinthians 16 :13-14

1 Corinthians 16 : 13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

Pray

INTRODUCTION :

Happy Father's Day! A young boy was asked, "What is Father's Day all about?" The young boy replied, "It's like Mother's Day but less important."

Today, we'll be talking about "real men"

THE KINGDOM MAN : Tony Evans

"A kingdom man is the kind of man that when his feet hit the floor each morning the devil says, 'Oh crap, he's up!'" The enemy doesn't want you to know it, but you're not the man you think you are. You're a whole lot more. Starting now, you can be a kingdom man.

Are we this kind of man? Or are we the kind of man that the devil says, "aah...he's no threat to us." Or "aah...don't worry, he's on our side."

Background :

- These two verses were called by Phillips as "A little sermon in a nutshell"
- Remember, this is a letter. Paul has just finished correcting the wrong beliefs and lifestyle of the Corinthians like disunity, immorality, the proper use of one's liberty, charity (love) and the Christian's victory
- Chapter 16 is almost like a P.S. (postscript) to his long letter
- Verses 13 and 14 is like a summary of what he just wrote.

Illustration : It's just like a coach after giving a lengthy instruction to his players, summarizes his instructions in short bursts so that they will really remember what to do.

Just like this short commands, the Corinthian people already knows what Paul is saying because of the detailed instructions they received in the letter.

***Now in the middle of these short commands,** Paul says *act like men* . The newer translations states, "be courageous" NIV, "be brave" NKJV" but KJV translates it as "quit ye like men"

Etymology : act like men "andrizomai";

Root word : aner "men"

Note : if you add the word "zomai" in Greek, it then becomes a verb

Example : “ergo” means work if you add zomai it becomes “ergazomai”, now it means “to do work”

So if you add “zomai” to aner, it now becomes andrizomai, which can literally be translated as “be men” or “play the man” or “act like men”.

In Tagalog, it means “magpakalalaki ka.”

Unfortunately, the world has a different view when adults would like their kids to become a man.

Two examples on how some fathers perform the rite of passage to their teenage sons to become men.

Example 1: I know a lot of fathers when their son reaches 16 would now teach their children how to drink beer or alcohol because apparently, that's what “men” do.

Example 2: I know of a classmate who told me that when he became 16 years old, his dad brought him to a brothel so he can experience his first sex.

But the pendulum has swung to the far left now.

Example 1 : Society is now encouraging us to take a different view from the Bible and from science (biology) that there are only 2 genders : a man and a woman.

But what is the primary duty of a father?

- **For their children to obey and fear the Lord**

Ephesians 6: Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- **For their children to love the Lord**

Deuteronomy 6: ⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

The problem with some dads is they think that their job is just to bring home the bacon and that's it. Definitely providing for our family is one of our jobs (1 Timothy 5:8) but our primary duty is to make sure they obey the Lord and they love the Lord.

Psalm 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

As Dads, we want the best for our children, correct? And what is the best thing we can share to our children. It's the love and knowledge of the Lord.

If your children loves the Lord Jesus and follows Him, everything else will fall into place.

What does it take to be the man? (although, this can be applied to women too)
This is also good instruction to fathers who have sons.

I. BE ALERT

Be watchful,

Etymology : watch “gregoreo” it means they remain awake; they are alert (we get the word Gregory)

Illustration : Why is drunk driving dangerous? It's because the person behind the wheel is not alert. If a person is not alert while driving, he is treading on dangerous ground. One of these days, he may not be so fortunate and hurt or even kill himself and others.

Just like our Christian life, if we are not alert, we might be escaping things now but let's not wait for bad things to happen.

What are we to watch out for?

a.) Watch out for the coming of the Lord.

Matthew 24: 42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”

Luke 12: 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

Note : I encourage the fathers here to teach your kids that the Lord is coming soon and that they must be ready for His coming.

A person who is watching out for the coming of the Lord will definitely also be watching out for temptations.

b.) Watch out for temptations.

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Temptation is such a great topic but we won't have time for this today.

***But let me just share with you the surveys done by Discipleship Journal on areas of greatest spiritual challenge to Christians (Guess which is #1?)**

1. Materialism.
2. Pride.
3. Self-centeredness.
4. Laziness.
5. (Tie) Anger/Bitterness.
5. (Tie) Sexual lust.
7. Envy.
8. Gluttony.
9. Lying.

Survey respondents noted temptations were more potent when they had neglected their time with God (81 percent) and when they were physically tired (57 percent). **Resisting temptation was accomplished by prayer** (84 percent), avoiding compromising situations (76 percent), Bible study (66 percent), and being accountable to someone (52 percent).

Quote : In order to stand up to anything, we should go down on our knees in prayer.

Remember, temptations come from within :

James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Temptations comes from without

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

That's why the need to be alert!

Guess who is being devoured by the enemy? Those who aren't alert.

Some men when it comes to spiritual things...inaantok palagi.

II. BE FAITHFUL

stand firm in the faith

Etymology : stand firm "steko" to persevere, to keep on standing

Illustration : One time, my officemate asked me whom I know his parents were divorced when he was still young. He asked me, "Jerry, what's the secret of a great marriage?" I replied, "Stick-to-it-iveness" (that's not an original of mine, I read it from Chuck Swindoll who read it from someone else)

In short : Standing firm is sticking to something no matter what happens.

Now, what Paul is saying "stand firm in the faith", (be faithful to your faith in the Lord)

"standing firm in the faith" also means being faithful to the belief system/doctrine (Etymology : pistis) that is being taught in God's Word.

When is your faithfulness to God and His Word tested?

During times of trial OR During times when everyone around you is compromising.

Note : It's easy to say "I will follow you Lord" or "I believe in your Word Lord" when everything is doing alright. But it's harder to follow through that when you are placed under the furnace.

How do you remain faithful to your faith? It's simple, you don't give up... you fight for it. Fight for what is right, fight for what is true.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Note :

You fight for your faith even if it's not convenient.

You may not be asked to give up your life just like Paul but how do you practice being faithful in our day-to-day life.

Illustration : I love the example of one of our church members.

He got a new job and one of the things he said to his boss when he accepted the job is this... “Assign me anything, any hour or any day, the only thing I ask is please do not assign any work to me on Sunday morning” The boss asked why and he said, “That’s the time I go to church.”

It takes guts to say that....which brings us now to...

III. BE COURAGEOUS

act like men

Etymology : act like men “andrizomai” (only time used in the NT)

The reason why it's translated “Be brave or courageous” in other translations because this Greek word was used to translate some of the Hebrew verses into Greek

Note : During the occupation of the Greeks, they Hellenized the Jews and one of the things they did is translated the Hebrew Bible into Greek (Septuagint)

One such passage they translated the Hebrew word “amats” (courage) to “Andrizomai”
Joshua 1: ⁶Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

Now, when we're talking about courage, it's not about the kind of courage that doesn't back out of a quarrel or a street fight or of something of the same nature.

***The kind of courage we are talking here is in connection with their Christian faith.**
stand firm in the faith, act like men

Illustration : I love hearing how some people here in the church are not afraid and are courageous to show their faith or share their faith to others.

I know some of you even if I don't hear it or see it are brave. It doesn't matter if I don't see it what matters is our Lord sees it.

NOTE ; It takes courage to be a witness for Christ because our natural reaction is to shy away. Our survival instinct kicks in because we don't want to be rejected or ridiculed.

That's why even Paul requested this prayer from the brethren :

Ephesians 6:19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, .

It also takes courage to stand for the faith specially nowadays.

Illustration : There's this person (can't say his name). He's being interviewed for a top position based in Ottawa and the money is going to be good. He's a strong Christian. But he had to consult with me because one of the duties is the supervision of a project they are rolling out where drag queens are going to read children's stories to kids to teach about inclusiveness. He will have to turn down the job because of this.

Note : We love everyone even the drag queens but for the government to influence the minds of our kids with demonic doctrines disguised as inclusiveness, it needs courage for us to do this.

IV. BE STRONG

be strong

Note : We're not talking about Mr. Universe strong here, though nothing is wrong with that. It's talking about being strong in the faith.

Etymology : strong “krataioo” to make strong

But the more interesting thing here is it comes from the root word krataios, which means mighty and used to describe the mighty power of God

In short : You can only be strong in your faith if you are strong in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 12: 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

How can you be strong in the Lord? IF YOU ARE STRONG IN THE WORD

The more you study God's Word, the stronger you grow in the Lord.

Illustration : One of the first Bibles that was given to me was given by my Ninang in our wedding.

In her note inside the Bible, she wrote, "A verse a day keeps the devil away"

V. BE LOVING

Let all that you do be done in love.

John McArthur once said “When in doubt, err in the side of love.”

This is the very thing that balances everything out. When our motive is true love then everything else follows. Let me show this.

What is love? Let's see what the Lord tells us about love

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Love is the ability to forget one's self to give the best to the other person.

Example : When it comes to our children, look at how the father shows his love.

*Hebrews 12: 6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives.”*

You see this, we think love is always giving in to the needs or wants of the other person. Sometimes, we must discipline them because we know that's the best for them.

Example : I've taught this before in Biblical parenting, sometimes it's easier for us parents to always come to the rescue. I don't blame you, that's a parent's heart...BUT HOW DO YOU FORGET YOURSELF IN A SITUATION IN EXCHANGE FOR THE BEST FOR YOUR CHILD?

Instead of coming to the rescue to ease your own internal burden, you let your child fight it out themselves and this way they become stronger.

Illustration : I have a brother ever since he was young, he gets into trouble and my parents would always bail him out. In the long run, we suffered as a family because he never really learned his lesson and he ended up dead.

It can also be applied for example, when your kids accumulate debt, then go to their rescue quickly. Let them fight it out themselves.

Forgetting oneself is also about forgetting our own conveniences to ease the burden of other people.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Practical Example : You are already tired from work and you just want to sleep or watch TV. But you still help your wife in washing the dishes because you know she's tired too. That's an example giving up oneself because you love your wife.

CONCLUSION :

We need to show the world what a real man is all about and we can only show them if we follow the perfect man who is also God Himself, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Perfect example of real men and these were young men.

Biblical Illustration : Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (they were around 15-20 years old)

Daniel 3: 13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

We have to remember, they were in front of a powerful king that's already angry with them. (Boss mo na galit sa iyo, they are in front of other people and even other Jews who were compromising (peer pressure) and also the punishment is severe...hindi lang siya mawawalan ng trabaho...mawawalan sila ng buhay...LITERALLY THEY WILL GET FIRED)

YOU KNOW WHY THEY WERE BEING MEN...BECAUSE THEY KNOW GOD IS ON THEIR SIDE.

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Now you know what I like about this story is when they were thrown into the fire, look at what happened.

25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

As men, when we stand for God, our Lord walks with us.

During the US civil war Abraham Lincoln met with a group of ministers for a prayer breakfast. Lincoln was a man of deep, if at times unorthodox, faith. At one point one of the ministers said, "Mr. President, let us pray that God is on our side". Lincoln's response showed far greater insight, "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

S.G.D.