

## I Corinthians 16:13

**<sup>13</sup> Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. <sup>14</sup> Let all that you do be done in love.**

Please let me say first off, that this word today is specifically to men! It is not intended to offend our ladies; but it is absolutely my purpose to rally the men, young and old, to become 'men of God'. If ever the church needed men to act like men, it is today. The gates of hell have been unleashed against the church, and it seems that many of the men are in hiding. Here the Apostle Paul is exhorting the men of Corinth, to do the very thing that each and every one of us needs to do, today. Let me also say that I am not a sexist; that I in no way believe that men are better than women; but having said that, I also believe that many men have become emasculated in this day and age of unisex. Men in the church have learned to listen to the same filth and garbage that is being inundated upon our society concerning our masculinity. I recently heard that one of the sole reasons that black American men are leaving the church for the Muslim religion, is because their role as a man is respected within that group. Also men have bought into a lie, that if they get too involved, they will be perceived as weak or perhaps too religious. So we have been taught by lukewarm men to water down our beliefs to where they won't offend anyone, let alone single us out in a group. Pastors, what we need to teach our men, is that meekness is not weakness! Our Lord Jesus was the meekest man who ever lived, yet there was nothing weak about Him. Meekness is simply controlled strength, and our Lord at any time in which he walked this earth, could have called legions of angels to wipe out or eliminate anything that opposed Him; but that was not His purpose when lived here two thousand years ago.

I am convinced that God is calling men to stand up and take notice of the onslaught that is raging against the body of Christ and that unless the men rise up today, our religious freedoms will be gone tomorrow! Let me be even more daring and say, that just standing up is not enough. Many of us need to stop the hidden sins that are destroying us spiritually. There are men in the church who are abusive to their wives and children, and you need to "Stop"! Many are involved in pornography, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and some are even having incestuous relationships with their children and grandchildren. Our armor has become rusted and broken down due to our choices and lifestyles. Instead of loving and serving our families through healthy leadership, we have either ruled as dictators, or learned submissive traits. For many men, they have learned that if they submit to their wife, they can get sex, or purchase new toys. Men, I exhort you by the mercy of God, to stop living a double minded and lukewarm life! Do more than repent for only a day or a week; live dangerously and give Jesus Christ the rest of your life. So many people today are taking part in extreme sports, because they are bored with anything less. If that describes you, then I have the ultimate adrenaline rush for you; "Obey God"! Nothing that I have ever done prior to selling out to Jesus can even begin to compare to simply living for Him. I promise that He will give you all of the adrenaline that you can handle. For others, fear has kept you from fulfilling your God given calling. Our wives, children and families are counting on you and me to take a stand for the Kingdom of God. Can God count on you, to take that stand?