

From the Pastor's Desk

September 2024

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The way a person behaves says a lot about what that person is. The Christian is to behave in a way that reflects the life of Christ. They that were in the Way were called Christians because they acted so much like Christ. Our text gives us five imperatives that indicates what a Christian is to be. Let us notice these.

I. The Christian is to be alert.

The word used for watch means to watch, be awake, be vigilant and figuratively to be alive. The opposite is to be spiritually indifferent and lifeless. The Christian is always to be ALERT. First because our enemy the Devil is on the prowl looking for a Christian that is in a spiritual slumber so he may attack. Second, he must be alert for temptation. Jesus said keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation. Third, he must watch for apathy and indifference. The very nature of those sins makes them hard to notice. By definition, a person who is apathetic and indifferent is insensitive and therefore cannot be alert. Forth, he should be alert for false teachers, about which the New Testament gives many warnings

II. The Christian is to be firm.

Another imperative given for powerful living is to stand fast in the faith. This does not mean have the faith of trusting but the faith of truth, the body of truth of the gospel. It is the faith, which was once for all delivered to the saints. It is the faith, which we are to fight the good fight. Doctrine is in view here. Satan is out to obscure the sound doctrine of the Word of God. The Christian is to stand firm in Truth and never, never, never ever let it slip.

III. The Christian is to be mature.

The basic idea is mature courage. The mature person has a sense of control, confidence, and courage that the immature or childish person does not have. Christians start out as babes in Christ, and they mature by desiring and feeding upon the sincere milk of the Word until they become able to receive the meat of the Word.

IV. The Christian is to be Strong.

This term denotes inner spiritual growth. It literally means, be strengthened. We cannot strengthen ourselves, that is the Lord's work. Our part is to submit ourselves to him in order that He can strengthen us. We can only be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. And be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Only a strong spirit can successfully battle and overcome the flesh.

V. The Christian is to be loving.

This imperative is the most comprehensive, and without it the others could make the Christian crusty, militant, and hard. Love complements and balances everything else. It is the beautiful softening principle.

*Your Pastor,
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