

# A PHILOSOPHY OF MEN'S MINISTRY

Calling Churchmen to Jesus' Mandate of Manliness

*March 1, 2025*

## Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus' priority on discipleship and His authority to prescribe that priority is binding on our lives.

How should we **respond** to this mandate as churchmen?

What is our unique **role** as churchmen?

How am I making use of my masculinity, my maleness, my **church-man-ness**, in safeguarding and serving Jesus as Lord of **my heart** and as Lord of Grace Church Williamsburg.

Being a churchman is about submitting to Jesus' authority and ministering His mandate of discipleship in every aspect of your life.

A philosophy of men's ministry helps us with several things as churchmen *doing* men's ministry at GCW:

1. It helps us to **understand** and **explain** why we approach men's ministry the way we do.
2. It helps us **measure** the purity and value of the means and methods of doing what we do.
3. It helps us **maintain** unity as brothers in Christ as we operate together as churchmen.
4. It helps us **safeguard** the main thing as the main thing in all we do.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

**Jesus' mandate of manliness**

Our society is lost in **emasculating** maleness, and much of the evangelical **church** is lost in **man-centeredness**.

To uphold **biblical** manliness and its vital role in church life, the **heartbeat** of our church needs to be **manifestly masculine**.

That heart needs to bear the **strength** and **steadiness** of spiritually alert, soberminded men loving Jesus, loving His people, and loving His Word.

Godly men make a **good-in-God** difference!

*"Be on the **alert, stand firm** in the faith, **act like men, be strong**. Let all that you do be done in **love**." (1 Cor. 16:13-14)*



What is the theme/concern of the **near context** of I Cor. 16:13-14?

- What is the theme/concern just **before** these verses?
- What is the theme/concern just **after** these verses?
- How would you summarize the **relationship** of verses 13-14 to the context?

*"Be on the **alert**..."*

- **Imperative** = force of a command
- What/who is the subject of this command? Who is being commanded?
  - Implied and not stated = Reader or "You"
- Present/active verb form
  - Present tense = **continuing** action on the part of the subject (You)
  - Active voice = the subject (You) performs the action
  - **You** act on this command **continually**
- One word in the Greek = "**alert**" = to arouse to action; to be in strict awareness of; to be awake and watchful. It is a state of **vigilance** to danger for the purpose of **readiness** to action.

“... *stand* ...”

- *steko* = to stand firm; to hold one’s ground; to be steadfast and persist.
  - “*firm*” is inserted by the NASB given the meaning of stand
- Present, active, imperative—grammatically the same as “*be on the alert.*”
  - Command with continuing action

What are we to stand firm in, to persist in, to hold our ground with regard to?

- “*the faith*” = the content of biblical teaching—particularly the gospel.
- Stand firm in sound doctrine, in the truth of God’s Word.

What do these two commands call you to **be**?

How does this reflect on how you need to **behave**, to order and live your life?

What **changes** do you need to make? (attitude, actions lifestyle, habits, priorities?)

“... *act like men*...”

- Another imperative (command) with ongoing, continual action.
- One word in the Greek = *andrizomai*
- Literally = act courageously; show yourself a man
- “**Mature** courage” (John MacArthur)

## "... *be strong*"

- Command with continuing action
- To become strong, powerful. To prevail.
- **Sense:** "to be or to become strong or powerful beyond the average or expected"
- **Not** "bootstrap" strength. It is an **inner-man** spiritual strength formed through **submission** to the Holy Spirit. "*Walk by the Spirit...*"

Be alert!

Stand firm!

Be manly!

Be spiritually strong!

Do these four imperatives have anything in **common**?



*“Let all that you do be done in love”* (verse 14)

- Command with continuing action
- Inclusive of your entire lifestyle as being lived for love for Christ.
- *“Let...be done”* is one word. To come into being; to bring to exist.
- *“love”* = agape. Sacrificial, selfless, surrendered.

What **hinders** you and works against your **obedience** to these commands?

To fulfill the full force of these commands in our daily lives as churchmen, what does **faithfulness** to Jesus look like for us?

What will it take for you to be faithful to Jesus in being defined by and in keeping these commands?

“Love complements and balances everything else. It is the beautiful, softening principle.

It keeps our firmness from being hardness  
and our strength from becoming domineering.

It keeps our maturity gentle and considerate.

It keeps our right doctrine from becoming obstinate dogmatism  
and our right living from becoming smug self-righteousness.”

*- John MacArthur*

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