



## [1 Corinthians 16:13-14](#)

(13) Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. (14) Let all *that you do* be done with love.

*New King James Version*

Are we not in a spiritual fight? Do we not face an adversary that wants to destroy us? Have we not committed ourselves to give our lives, if necessary? Matthew Poole, who published his commentary in 1685, makes a good point when speaking of "quit ye like men" ("be brave", NKJV):

. . . you are as soldiers fighting against [the world](#), the flesh, and the devil; do not behave yourselves like children, whom the least opposition will terrify and throw down; but like men, with a spiritual courage and fortitude, becoming such who have so good a Captain, and so good a cause.

The "captain of their [salvation](#)" ([Hebrews 2:10](#)) is our commanding officer in battle. Our Captain has given us the equipment we need to carry out our duties: these four imperatives. All of them—watching, standing firm in the [faith](#), acting like men, and being strong—can be considered as masculine traits due to the military analogies; but they are not limited to men, nor should they be.

[Satan](#) has perverted the minds of today's world to the point that these traits are regarded negatively. Feminists might concede that men are strong and courageous, in some cases, but **foolishly** so. We are told that women are loving and nurturing and these qualities are to be preferred. So much so that [homosexuality](#) is considered normal and a man that truly acts like a man is abnormal—a Neanderthal. It is a mixed-up world indeed.

However, these traits are not mutually exclusive! Notice what Paul says in verse 14: "Let all that you do be done with [love](#)." Verse 13 is not for lumberjacks, and verse 14, for

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women and sensitive, new-age males! Not at all. As Christians, we are to "be men" *and* do all with love. Is not love showing concern for others? In the Christian fight, are not watching, standing in the faith, exhibiting courage, and being strong—in order to protect their loved ones and their way of life—showing love? Certainly!

The entire book of I Corinthians is, as Henry Halley says, "Mainly about Certain Church Disorders." Brethren met in their homes and small halls in one of the largest, richest, and most important cities of the Roman Empire. The brethren there were faced with decadence, temptation, and vices of every sort. They experienced corruption on a grand scale. There were factions and competing groups. Sound familiar? Truly, "there is nothing new under the sun" ([Ecclesiastes 1:9](#)).

Our lives to this point have been difficult, and more tough times lie ahead. We know that [God](#) will provide. God is faithful ([I Corinthians 1:9](#)), and we do not need to worry about *how* He will do it. Instead, we need to take care of our end of the deal: to be ever-vigilant, standing firm in the faith, courageous and strong, doing everything in concern for others. All this is summed up by *andrizomai*: quit ye like men!

— Mike Ford

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