

Act Like Men

The title of this lesson comes from what Paul wrote the Corinthians: **1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.** The word “quick” means “behavior.” Some versions say, “act like men” instead of “quit you like men.” What I would like to do this morning in focus in on the idea of acting like men. While this is Father’s Day, we’ll talk about fathers as we consider the role of men in general. We want to consider what is involved in being a real man, I’m talking a about a Christian man. We’ll notice from the NT how God instructed men to conduct themselves.

WE’LL BEGIN BY CONSIDERING A SINGLE MAN.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. We learn from this verse how a single man is to act, but it is good advice for all Christians.

First. Timothy was to be an example in how he talked. Young men are to keep their tongue clean; it’s important for them to watch what they say. On another occasion Paul would say (**Colossians 4:6**) **Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**

Second. Timothy was to be an example in his conduct or his behavior. That word “conversation” means “behavior, conduct.” A man is to conduct himself in honorable way and not some lewd vulgar manner.

Third. Timothy was to be an example in love. If a man is full of love, he will not have any room for hate or angry words. So, for a single Christian man to conduct himself in a way that is pleasing to God, he must have love.

The last 3 things Timothy is to be a good example in is spirit, faith and purity. Every man should live life in such a way that others around you can see that the spirit of Christ is in you. In order for you to have the spirit of Christ it takes faith.

This last thing is very important to those that are single men, and that is purity. A single man is one who needs to watch how he conducts himself around women and that he maintains pure thoughts. Take a look at what Paul tell Titus (another single man) about this matter. **Titus 2:6-8 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. (7) In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, (8) Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.** Here Paul gives very similar instructions to Titus. Christian men are to be good examples to those around them. Most single men get married and start a family. That brings to our second point.

HOW SHOULD A MAN ACT AS A HUSBAND?

Ephesians 5:25-29 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; (26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

We learn from Paul that we are to love our wives just as Christ loved the church. To help us think about how deep a love that really is, let's take a look at a few passages that show what Christ was willing to do for the church which is just another way of saying what he did for us.

Philippians 2:5-8 tells us that Jesus was willing to give up his home in heaven to become a man and to live like one of us and be tempted like we are so that he could fully know how to help us in our time of need. **2 Corinthians 8:9** *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.* Jesus was willing to give up all that he had so that we could be set free from our sin. He loved us so much that he was willing to face the torture of the cross for our sakes.

Romans 5:7-8 *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us* is how much Jesus loved the church and we as husbands are to have that same type of love for our wives. This means that we should be willing to love our wives with every ounce of our being.

Notice now vs 28-29 of Ephesians 5. **(5:28)** *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. (29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:* We are to love them as we love ourselves and to nurture them as we would want to be nurtured.

As husbands, we are to love and respect our wives and give them the affection that they deserve. **1 Peter 3:7** *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.* Some men will do nothing but belittle their wives and call them all kinds of mean names. That is wrong and certainly isn't honoring them. We must be careful how we treat our wives

NOW LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT HOW MEN SHOULD ACT AS FATHERS.

Ephesians 6:4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* First let's deal with the phrase "do not provoke your children to wrath." Now not all provoking is bad. **Hebrews 10:24** *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:* In this instance there is a positive way that a person may provoke or stir someone up and certainly as fathers we want to provoke our children up in such a way that will lead them to righteousness.

However, Paul is telling the men not provoke their children in such a way that will cause them to be angry or cause them to do or say something they later regret. Paul goes on and tells fathers what they need to do. He says that we are to bring them up in the admonition of the Lord. This is one of the responsibilities of a Christian man. He should be the spiritual leader of the house and should take an active part in teaching his children about the Lord. This is not a new concept found only in the Law of Christ. God has always wanted the fathers to be involved in their children's upbringing.

For instance let's look at what the Bible says about Abraham in, **Genesis 18:19** *For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.* You see even back as far as Abraham. God had this plan for the fathers. It's very important that we train our children up and use discipline as necessary. Every Christian man needs to understand the importance of this.

We all need to have the attitude that Joshua did. ***Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.***

Even after men are married and have children we are still to **act like men when it comes to being a son**. Paul tells us in, ***Ephesians 6:1-2 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (2) Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)*** As Christian men we should never get to the point where we stop treat honoring our parents. As parents get older and the time comes when they need help, it is the responsibility of the children to look after this need. Christian men are to take care of their parents. ***1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.***

If a son fails to act like a man and take care of his own, he is considered to be worse than unbeliever. Even Jesus did what he could from the cross to make sure that his mother would be taken care of after he was gone as he said to John, **"Behold your mother!" (John 19:26)**. John would now take care of Mary as if she was his own mother. Lets us never try to neglect our responsibility for taking care of our own.

Finally let's take a look a few things that are involved in acting like a man who is a servant of God. First thing we will notice is that are many things that we should pursue and flee as Christian men according to, ***1 Timothy 6:9-14 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. (10) For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (11) But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. (12) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. (13) I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; (14) That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:***

This is a great summary that all Christian men should follow. In a nutshell Paul is teaching us to flee from evil and worldly things but pursue after those things that will lead you to eternal life and the way we do that is by keeping all of God's word without spot. You see a man of God will make every effort to be a true child of God.

Another thing that Christian man will do is find a work that he can do for the Lord. As a Christian man whether you are single, married, a father, or a son we all have a great responsibility in serving God and those around us with love. Real men love the lord and their family with all their heart.

You can please your father today by spending some time with him. If you are here and your spiritual life is not right, you can please your heavenly father by obeying the gospel today.

Invitation