

STAND FIRM AND ACT LIKE MEN

Key Scripture:

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 – "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

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The Crisis of Manhood

- Society has lost its definition of true manhood.
- The culture promotes **delayed boyhood**—men physically grown but spiritually immature.
- A **real man** is not defined by his hobbies, toughness, or accomplishments but by his **God-given roles**:
 - **Prophet** (truth teller)
 - **Priest** (spiritual leader)
 - **King** (servant leader)
 - **Provider** (worker and caretaker)
 - **Protector** (defender of the weak)

What Happened to Biblical Manhood?

- **The Industrial Revolution** removed fathers from the home, making child-rearing "women's work."
- **Modern gender confusion** is an attack on God's created order.
- The **absence of a rite of passage** has left men without clear direction.
- **Culture has either feminized men or pushed them into toxic masculinity.**

God's Blueprint for Men (Genesis 2:5-25)

Before the fall, God gave Adam three primary responsibilities:

1. **Work to Enjoy** – Work is not a curse but part of God's design.
2. **Will to Obey** – Man was created to follow God's commands.
3. **A Woman to Love** – Marriage and relationships were designed for **sacrificial love**.

Sin corrupted each of these:

- **Our will to obey** became rebellion or legalism.
- **Our relationships with women** became passivity or control.
- **Our work became cursed, leading to laziness or workaholism.**

The Gospel is the Answer

- Romans 5:17 – *"If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."*
 - Jesus **restores what Adam lost**—real men must bow before Jesus before they can stand up and act like men.
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The Call to Stand on the Wall

- Like **soldiers on a wall**, men are called to **provide and protect**.
- **If the enemy takes out the defenders, the defenseless suffer.**
- **The ripple effect of men abandoning their post is devastating.**

How the Enemy Takes Men Out

1. Pride

- Pride is the **granddaddy of all sins** (C.S. Lewis).
- **Signs of pride:**
 - Needing credit and recognition.
 - Always needing to be right.
 - Struggling to affirm others.
- **God's Response:** *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* (James 4:6)
- **Antidote:** Worship and surrender—humility is **a posture, not a feeling**.

2. Anxiety & Worry

- Many men hide behind "providing for their family" as an excuse to idolize work.
- **Worry is misplaced fear—do you trust your circumstances more than your Savior?**
- *"Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."* (1 Peter 5:7)
- **Antidote:** Stop **trying to control** everything—trust in **God's sovereignty**.

3. Laziness & Abdication

- **Christian men should never be lazy or bored.**
- **God has called men to action:**
 - **Pursue your wife** – Date her, pray for her, lead her spiritually.
 - **Lead your children** – Care more about their eternity than their college choices.
 - **Engage in church and community.**
- **Antidote:** Wake up, get your mind right, and **get in the fight**.

4. Isolation

- **Men are experts at isolating themselves.**

- The enemy **preys on those who separate from the pack**—lions always attack the stray.
- *"Who is praying for you? Who really knows how you're doing?"*
- **Antidote:** Find **four brothers** who know your struggles and hold you accountable.

5. Lust (The Granddaddy of Them All)

- **Sexual sin destroys men faster than anything else.**
- *"Flee from sexual immorality."* (1 Corinthians 6:18)
- **Are you fleeing or flirting?**
- If you were the enemy, **how would you take yourself out?**
- **Antidote:** Set firm boundaries, remove temptation, and choose **radical faithfulness**.

The Call to Action

- **To be a man, you must first bow before Jesus.**
- **You are in a fight—whether you realize it or not.**
- **Jesus rescues you so that you can join His rescue mission.**
- **You have no idea what hangs in the balance for generations to come!**

Next Steps

- **Find four brothers** to walk with.
- **Pray out loud** for your wife and kids.
- **Stay in the fight—stand firm.**

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