Daily Devotion #184

**Act Like Men**

**Act like Men - 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NASB)** *“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith; act like men; be strong.”*

As a young boy growing up, I remember times when I did things that were not pleasing to my parents. There was one time when my cousin and I crawled through the hole of an old outhouse. Yes, I’m talking about going through the toilet seat, down through the opening into the pit and from there crawling out of the other side. Now mind you, before you are totally grossed out, in my defense, the toilet hadn’t been used in many, many years. So it was dry and mostly dirt as I remember. For us, it became an entrance to a hideout that lead us to a cool place were we could pretend we were in another world.

I know what you are thinking. How in the world could you even think of such a thing? Well, unfortunately, we did think of that and thought it was the coolest thing ever. Boys love adventure, so we decided what better adventure could there be than going down the hole of an old out house. As you can imagine, my mom and dad were not happy when they found out because my parents understood the danger and the potential health risk to us. Sadly, they would not let us have that adventure again, and, to make sure, my dad took me aside and made me tell him the whole story. I remember that meeting with dad very well. He was calm but firm. He was not mad and neither did he show any kind of ungodly behavior. His words were matter-of-fact and left no reason in my mind to question his instruction. So, my cousin and I obeyed and never went down the hole again.

What I remember from that meeting with my dad was first, I was terrified because I knew he was not happy. But, I also remember how he dealt with me. It was as if he loved me through the strength of being my dad. I felt a security in him and from him that did not push me away but drew me in to him. I remember that day gaining a better grasp of what it means to be a man.

Our world is greatly missing the meaning of godly manhood. For many in our world, manhood is about letting things go and not dealing with them, even though they are wrong, because it’s easier that way. It’s easier to not have to deal with those who would disagree. Many men today are giving up the role of being a man. They are allowing the issues of life and the things in life to control them and push them in directions that are not what God intended for men. Men today are not being the strong model of leadership and direction that God created them to be.

When Paul was instructing the church in Corinth, one of the major problems was that the men were not fulfilling their roles in life and in the family. They were being too passive in just about every area of life. So Paul calls them to remember their God-ordained role. In our verse for today, Paul gives several commands. He says to be alert for spiritual wrongs, to stand on faith in God even when you don’t know what to do, and to act like men.

God created men for a unique purpose - to be the ones who lead and not the ones who are blown about by everything that comes along - to not be overcome by emotions but to let truth drive decisions, even when others don’t agree - to remember that God is the One who placed men in the world to be the strong arm, if you will, to give guidance and support to those who need it most. And above all, to be strong, meaning there are times when it will not be easy. And in verse fourteen, the instruction - above all - is to be loving.

There is a big difference in those who lead with love and those who lead with dictatorship. When a man is motivated by love, he will step up to the plate in challenging times. He will be determined to go God’s way and not be moved by what people think, and he will do so in a spirit of love.

Our country and world need men. We need men to be men. We need men who stand on the Word of God no matter what.

Dear brothers, let’s heed the word of the Lord. Let’s stand firm in our faith. Let’s act like the men who God created us to be.