**Masculinity**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The Rev. Jeff Stivason, Ph.D.

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**Jeff:** Our God, we thank You. And we thank You because You have richly blessed us in Jesus Christ. Were it not for Your abounding grace given through Him we would be utterly lost, lost in our sins and confined to hell. Lord, You indeed in Your abundant mercy had a plan for us involved in Your Son, that He might die in our stead, that we might live through Him. And Father, as we gather together, may our minds love the gospel in all of its tender mercies and its beauty. And Lord, may we live in it and have our being in it and rejoice in it. We pray that You would help us to know the nuances of the gospel more and more, Lord, that we might grow in our love of what You’ve done for us.

And Father, as we gather in this place, and are mindful that we have families at home and people we love, we pray that the gospel would be an entrance into their lives. We pray that our wives and children and grandchildren would be affected by the gospel in a saving way. We pray that You would construct their lives according to Christ, letting no false philosophy, letting no worldly philosophy creep it and have its way with them, but that You would keep them in Christ.

Father, as we study today we ask that You would open our minds and our hearts to receive what is said, that we might not only hear it and be edified by it in our minds, but that our whole lives might embrace it, that we might do these things with our hands, that we might go to places where we ought to go with our feet. And we pray, Father, that You will be glorified in all that we say and do. Father, we ask these things in the precious name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

**Brave Men:** Amen.

**Jeff:** Well, I guess in some ways it’s a pretty sad note to start off a topic like this on being a man with the news that so recently came out that I heard yesterday about Steve Lawson. Has anyone heard about him? He’s the Ligonier Ministries fellow who apparently got caught in an inappropriate relationship with a woman. He has been suspended from his church. I haven’t read a Ligonier post or response with what they’re going to do with Him yet. So apparently he had this inappropriate relationship. I don’t know the story, but apparently he confessed to his church and those involved, so they suspended him. I think t’s a pretty sad thing for the church of Jesus Christ when somebody of that note falls like that and when people look up to him and admire him. And people look up to you and admire you; maybe a smaller circle of people in our world versus his, yet it’s no less true. And so I think that a topic like this one is so important for us to think about: what it means to be a man.

I ask that question in sort of a broad way, mainly to try to help you to understand where I’m coming from, because each of us comes from a different place. If you were to ask me besides my dad and my grandfather, who were those who were the biggest role models for me, and what it means to be a man, I would have said that guy right there: John Wayne. *(Laughter)*

I’ll tell you what, I’ll never forget. I was outside playing when I was probably five or six years old. My dad came outside and it was a Saturday and he flagged me down. He said, “Jeff, come inside; I’ve got a movie for you to watch. I know you’re gonna like it.”

And man, did he know me! *(Laughter)* I’ll tell you what movie it was: it was “The Cowboys.” Remember “The Cowboys?” Who where is a real man and has seen “The Cowboys?” *(Laughter)* You know, that was a great movie because—

**Don Maurer:** Does watching the Steelers play the Dallas Cowboys count?

**Jeff:** No, no. *(Laughter)* Did somebody say something? *(Laughter)* You know, Bruce Derek was in that movie; do you remember that? Oh, man! Remember when he crinkles up the little kid’s glasses? Oh, that was such a good movie! John Wayne says to him, “All right, let’s see what you can do, boy!!” You know, that was a line I never forgot.

Anyway, there were good things about John Wayne and there were some bad things about John Wayne. John Wayne was a guy who was mastered by drinking. He was a womanizer. He did a lot of things that weren’t very good.

But there were some things that he did that were good. He was the kind of guy who was famous for valuing things like loyalty, self-reliance, grit and honesty, at least in the movies. One of the things that I learned about his character was how he treated the opposite sex. He opened the doors for them and let them go first; he treated them with respect.

But you know, I can’t understand how that’s up there because it doesn’t look on my screen how it ought to look on your screen. There we go. Okay, so this is a new screen.

So what is it to be a man? Well I think that Scripture answers that question for us. And in thinking about what it is to be a man, it’s not the John Wayne answer, although the John Wayne answer has some overlap. But I think that the Bible brings us to another man. We think about what it means to be a man, and of course this man is Jesus Christ. But we’ll get to Him. What I want us to do is to look at one verse. I want us to look at 1 Corinthians chapter 16, and I want us to look at verse 13; 1 Corinthians 16 and verse 13. Actually I guess it’s 13 and 14, but listen to God’s word.

Two verses: *“Be watchful. Stand firm in the faith, act like men; be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”*

Now I want you to think about what it means to be a man. But before we think about what it means to be a man I want to think about the word that is in verse 13 that in my Bible is translated as “men.” It’s the word *andridzomai.*

Now the word *andridzomai* is a verb. It is a clear commandment. It’s something that we must do. It’s not a suggestion, it’s a command. And so the question becomes: what does it mean? If the Bible is telling you, if it’s giving you an imperative—a command,--and that command is “act like men,” whatever that means, then we must follow it. But in order to follow it, in order to do it, we need to know what it is that we’re doing. And so what does it mean to *andridzomai?* That’s the commandment.

Let me have you think with me just for a minute about this word; this word is an interesting one. This is a transliteration, so I’m not throwing the Greek up there; it’s a transliteration of the Greek. *Andrao* is the noun form of *andridzomai.* And the noun form of *andridzomai is the word* “man.”

Now if *andrao* is the noun form of the verb *andridzomai,* then what does the verb form mean? Well the verb form means not simply “man,” but be this, be a man. And so the question is, what does it mean to be a man?

Well, in some sense that’s really easy, isn’t it? I mean, in some sense being a man takes no effort at all. If you were born with the right genitalia, it just takes being. I mean, that wouldn’t be a difficult thing.

But the question becomes, what does the Bible mean that you exist as you were born, although that’s pretty good advice for today, isn’t it? *(Laughter)* I mean, you know, there are some books that need to be guided in that a little bit.

I’ll never forget this. If you can get your hands on it, get R. C. Sproul’s talk on homosexuality; I think it’s still available. But it tackles a little bit of the direction that our culture is going. And he has this segment where he says something to the effect that if I had somebody who didn’t know what sex they were, or didn’t know what sex they ought to be attracted to,--and he says this so seriously, just like R. C. Sproul,--I would take them into their room. I’d have them take all their clothes off, and I would have them stand in front of a mirror. Would that it were so simple! *(Laughter)*

But anyway, it’s not be a man, or exist as you were born, but it’s a commandment: Be a man. And that obviously entails more than just existence, although it doesn’t exclude it.

So how would you translate this? Well, my text translates it *“Act like men.”* Don’t just exist in the gender that you were born in, but act like the man you were born to be.

That’s not the only place where we find this word. In the Old Testament it’s not written in Greek; it’s written in Hebrew. But there’s a Greek version of the Old Testament that was translated in about the year 250 B.C.—not the Old Testament in its entirety, but in that year the first five books. It’s called the Septuagint. It was translated in Alexandria. And then the rest of the books were translated in the years following. They were gathered together, and it became what is known as the LXX—the Septuagint. And so the Septuagint was the translation that Paul likely used when he was speaking to Greek-speaking Gentile people.

And the reason why we think that is because there are passages in the New Testament that are exact quotes from the Greek Septuagint. And so it’s obviously or likely that the Greek Septuagint was the translation that the New Testament apostles were using to communicate the gospel.

Now I say that because once we look at the Septuagint we find this word in the Septuagint. And we find it in an interesting spot, a place where we might expect to find it if we gave ourselves a little time to think about it. In Joshua 1:6-9, 2 Samuel 10:12 and Psalm 31:24 *andridzomai* is translated “courageous.”

You know the passage in Joshua: “Be courageous.” In fact, let’s take a look at some of these passages just to kind of refresh our memory: Joshua 1, verses 6-9. And would somebody look up 2 Samuel 10:12? Somebody else, take Psalm 31:24.

I’ll read Joshua 1:6-9; it says this: *“Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses My servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.”* I won’t read the rest of it, but you get the idea. The idea is that here is the commandment—*andridzomai*—and it’s being translated “be courageous.”

That would be akin to “act like men.” And yet what they’re doing is, they are taking one virtue—the virtue of courage—and they are using that to translate “be a man.” What is it to be a man? Well, if you were looking at this text you would say it’s to be a courageous man. How about 2 Samuel 10:12? Does somebody have it?

**Gary Dunbar:** I do, Jeff.

**Jeff:** Yeah; go ahead.

**Gary:** It’s the NIV.

**Jeff: Yeah, whichever.**

Gary: ***“Be strong, and let us be brave for our people in the city of our God. The LORD will do what is good in His sight.”***

**Jeff:** Be brave. It sounds very much like “be courageous.” Who has Psalm 31:24?

**Paul Deffenbaugh:** I have it, Jeff. *“Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD.”*

**Jeff:** Let your heart take courage. You know, I don’t know exactly why that word *andridzomai* is translated “courage” or “courageous.” But I have an idea. When you think about courage, one of the things that you think about in the etymology of that word is the etymology of the heart. And so I think that one of the reasons why this is translated that way is because a man is a man who has heart; he’s all heart; he has that expression before him. And having all heart, at least in those days, meant to be a man of courage. Okay?

Now the question that I have for you is this: Are you looking to say that being a man is to have courage? In other words, let me put it this way: Is that the fullness of masculinity?

**John Gratner:** No.

**Jeff:** Who said that?

**John:** I did. *(Laughter)*

**Jeff:** Well you’re in agreement, because there are a number of guys shaking their heads no. We would say that. So let me ask you: What would you say if your son or grandson came up to you and said to you, “Hey, Dad, what is it to be a man?”

Now I’ve got news for you. I would never have asked my grandfather that. I would have never asked my grandfather what it was to be a man, because I could tell by looking at him. Do you know what I mean? All of our granddads were probably of that variety, where you just looked at him and you were like yeah! But I can tell you this. What I thought it was to be a man, what I watched in my grandfather, was just sheer strength, not very much communication, care in terms of provision, but not necessarily emotional support. Those are the kinds of things that I would have noticed about my grandfather.

But today we have a little different perspective about what it means to be a man. Today we see somebody with a diaper bag holding his own baby and we say, “That’s a man.” We do, because our views have changed, right? A man is a guy who helps his wife out with the kids. And I want you to know that I’ve changed as many diapers as my wife. I’m just saying it; I’m going on record right now. *(Laughter)* But I do think that our conception of what it means to be a man has shifted. Thoughts about that before I move on? Yes?

**Don Maurer:** How much of that is Biblical, and how much of that is an American—

**Jeff:** Cultural shift?

**Don:** Yes, because where does it say in the Bible that in order to be a man you don’t communicate?

**Jeff:** Judges 2:4. Just kidding. *(Laughter)*

**Don:** I mean, look at King David.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Don:** He was pretty emotional at times.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Don:** And he was also—heaven forbid!—a musician as well as a warrior.

**Jeff:** Oh, that was self-serving as anything I’ve ever heard. *(Laughter)* Yes, we need a Biblical view of this, right? And that leads me to ask: What about the Man Jesus? If we’re going to think about what it means to be a man, then we need to think about Christ Himself.

Now I want to think about Him for a couple minutes. I want to think about Him as the second Adam. This is a quote from B. B. Warfield. Warfield said of Adam the Second: *“God has expressly subjected all things to man. Man has obviously not entered into his dominion. But the Man Jesus has.”*

Now you need to understand that quote from a certain perspective, and I want you to understand this. This comes from more than just being a man or masculinity. There’s a particular mood behind what I’m going to share with you that I want you to hear.

So Adam the First was given a mandate in the garden. He was told not to eat from the tree. If he didn’t eat from the tree, then what? He would have life. And he would exercise dominion over the face of the whole earth. And then Eden would flow over the entire earth.

But he failed to do that. And so what happens is that the second Adam is required. And the second Adam comes along, not in Paradise but in a desert, and fulfills what the first Adam fails to do.

Now the point is that this Adam failed. And all his posterity fret him lived in that failure. And this Adam came along and has dominion. What did He say at the end of Matthew 28? *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.* Go and disciple the nations.” In other words, “go and live in my dominion.”

He doesn’t say—what we’re not told to do—is to take dominion. We’re told to live in the dominion that has already been taken.

**Brave Man:** Amen.

**Jeff:** In other words, think about it like this. And the reason why I stress this is because there is a version of masculinity that is afoot today that will tell you that you need to take dominion. And the bottom line is that this is a misunderstanding of this basic theological structure. There were only two men who were able to take dominion. Adam failed and he lived in his failure. And so the second Adam came along and He took dominion. And now He does not say to us, “Take swords and go in there, and be berserk in those nations, taking dominion.” That’s not what He said. He said this: “Go in there and disciple those nations that have already come under My dominion.”

There is an enormous difference between those two, an enormous difference. So the second Adam has entered into his dominion. We are obviously living in the dominion that has been taken by Him. But we’re not Christs, right? We’re not little Christs in the sense that we take dominion. We’re living in the dominion that He has taken. That’s important to keep in mind.

So there is one more quote I want to share with you and maybe another. *“Jesus Christ is presented before us here as a true and real Man, possessed of every faculty and capacity that belongs to the essence of our nature.”* In other words, if you want a model of what it means to be a true man, look at Jesus Christ.

You know, Warfield is not even talking about masculinity in this sermon that he’s preaching; he’s just telling us about Jesus. And then *“if you would know what man is, in the height of his divine ideal, look at Jesus Christ.”* In other words, if you want to know what Adam and so you were intended to be, then look at the second Adam, Jesus Christ, and you will see it.

Okay, I want to tell you something. Today this is what I hear; you may hear differently. I guess it depends on what circles you run in or who you listen to. But I hear a lot of the worst traits of men being exalted as the best traits. For instance I hear things like, there is a natural aggressiveness in men that needs to be fostered.

Really? I don’t know about you, but my natural aggressiveness needs to be put to death. But that gets raised up on a pedestal. And I think it’s gotten raised up on a pedestal because of our angry culture that we live in. It’s a frustrate culture, frustrated with the political situation that we live in. And it’s sort of the idea that has been fostered by many that the church doesn’t do anything but preach this Gnostic gospel that doesn’t have feet on the ground.

I have news for you. I’ll take that gospel; you can call it whatever you want. But the point is that if you look at Luke and Acts, it is the gospel of the Kingdom that must be preached because it is what changes lives, not the oppression of men. In fact, *“the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”* I read that somewhere. I’m not quite sure, but I think it’s in the Bible. *(Laughter)* Yes?

**Don Bishop:** If you say that to an unbeliever—that you love Jesus Christ,--they are thinking of Jesus Christ from “Jesus Christ, Superstar.”

**Jeff:** Say that again. If you say that to an unbeliever, what?

**Don:** If you say to an unbeliever that you’re a man and you love Jesus Christ,--

**Jeff:** Go ahead.

**Don:** Their image of Christ is “Jesus Christ, Superstar.”

**Jeff:** Oh, I thought you were going to say wimpy.

**Jeff:** Oh, I didn’t see “Jesus Christ, Superstar.” I thought you were going to say that a friend saw it and told me about it. *(Laughter)* I didn’t see that. But if you tell a guy who has no exposure to Scripture or Scriptural Christianity what it means to be a man and that you love Jesus, he’s going to say, “Oh, great! I’m going to give up my masculinity,” right?

And so we would say no. We would say that being a man means to be like Jesus. Okay, now I want us to press into this a little bit. He is an example. And He is not just an example. But I would say to you that we need to keep this in mind. And this is where I want to make sure that I’m not one-sidedly kind of coming down somewhere where you guys might misunderstand; I don’t think you will. But I think it’s important for me to say this.

He is an example; 1 Peter chapter 2 tells us that. Do you remember those little books that you used to get in school? They were teaching you how to write. And that’s the word that’s used for “example” in 1 Peter chapter 2. It was the word for tracing one’s letters. Believe it or not, that’s what they did back in the first century. And so Jesus is a figure over which we can trace our own lives. That’s the idea of being an example.

Now He is also a representative. And I don’t want this to get lost, but I’m not going to focus on this today. When I say that He was our representative, what I mean is that He was our federal Head, the second Adam. That means that He was the only One who achieved salvation for us by His righteous life and His sacrificial death. It is only by faith in Him, and so having His righteousness and His forgiveness, that we can be like Jesus. So the only way you can be like Jesus is to be found in Jesus by faith alone. In other words, embrace the gospel. You can’t be like Jesus if you are not in Jesus. So there is a very clear and straightforward connection between union with Christ and being like Christ. There is a very tight connection between Jesus being our saving representative and our example. So I don’t want to lose sight of that. I want to make mention of that and make sure it’s clear in your thinking, because we’re talking about an example today and not necessarily a representative.

Accompanying words help us and orient us in a Christward direction in thinking about what it means to be a man. And so I want us to think about the character of man for just a few minutes, as we’re given the character of a man in 1 Corinthians chapter 16.

So what do I want to say? Well first of all, it says that being a man means being watchful, standing firm in the faith, being strong. Those kinds of ideas are involved in being watchful.

Why do I say that? Because someone who is watchful, at least in the Biblical sense, is that you take him all the way back to the watchman who stands on the wall. They are the ones who first see the enemy when the enemy comes over the horizon. They’re watchful and they’re courageous; they’re strong, and they don’t flinch in the face of danger. I think these are ideas that are connected with the idea of being watchful.

Now I would just say this to you. And I’m going to say something to you that I don’t want you to go home and tell your wives. I’m just kidding; I don’t care if you do or not; they’re your wives. *(Laughter)* But I want to say that your wife can be watchful and should be watchful. In other words, she can also exemplify this very artful trait of watchfulness, and she should. For instance, if she’s a home-schooling mom, or if your kids are in public school—regardless—you have to read what the kids are reading. You’ve got to make sure that you know what’s out there and what’s going into your kids’ heads. A lot of that falls to the mom. So moms have a watchful attribute that they need to exercise as well.

But I want to tell you something. When it comes to the family as a whole, I think the watchful aspect falls to the man because he is the head of the family. And so it generally falls to him to watch over the whole family and to be strong, courageous and the protector of them. So that’s first of all.

But do you know what? Being watchful simply means this: staying awake. I mean, I want you to think about this for just a minute. We could say that being a man simply means that I look in the mirror and I’m a man. Okay, I’ve fulfilled that qualification, right? I’ve fulfilled that imperative.

Well, in one sense being watchful can just mean staying awake. But it’s more than staying awake. It’s staying awake and taking in what is around me, being sure that I know what’s coming near my family and what’s coming near me. I mean, let’s take the example we started with off the table for a minute.

When you see temptation coming your way, you have an obligation. If you’re being watchful and you know that you are now engaging in a relationship or a situation that could lead to a relationship that is illegitimate for you to be in, you have two choices before you, and they are Joseph choices. You can either stay and let yourself be ensnared in the light of Proverbs chapter 6, or you can flee, run for your life. That’s the Joseph alternative. And so being watchful means not just being awake, but it means watchfulness to the point of vigilance.

Matthew 26:38. This is where Jesus said to the disciples, *“Watch with Me.”* “Pray with Me.” He said, “Pray that you don’t enter into temptation.”

Actually I’m going to take us to this. What are we supposed to watch for? Listen to what He says in Mark 13:35: *“Therefore stay awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come: in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows or in the morning, lest He come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”*

We are to stay awake in order to avoid temptation, so that we are found ready when the Master comes. There’s an external and an internal aspect to all this. Let’s just go through a few of these texts. I’ll take Colossians 4:2. Let somebody else take 1 Thessalonians 5:6. And then somebody else take 1 Peter 5:8.

Colossians 4:2 says this: *“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”* There’s an internal aspect of that, and that internal aspect is gratitude. I’m being watchful, vigilant, on duty, and I’m to be thankful. What else? 1 Thessalonians.

**Don Nemit:** *“Let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober.”*

**Jeff:** Watch and be sober, sober-minded; thinking clearly. What’s the other one? 1 Peter 5:8.

**Brave Man:** *“Be self-controlled and alert. For your enemy prowls as a roaring lion.”*

**Jeff:** Be alert. So here is the idea: These are things that I’m to do while I stay awake. I’m going to be awake and full of gratitude. I’m going to be awake and watchful. I’m to be awake and to have accompanying cognitive thoughts. I’m to be vigilant and I’m to be on duty. So it’s internal and external.

He says that I need to stand firm in the faith. Maybe you want to talk about this idea of being watchful before I just push along.

**Brave Man:** Being watchful is being made aware of your surroundings, your situations, what’s going on in your life. We talked about how a lot of things are relegated to wives and to the mothers. But dads are not to relegate them and not be aware of what they’re involved in, because there is a separation of things. But they need to come together to make a whole family.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

The wife has her place under the husband, so he is to be aware of—

**Brave Man:** If she asks about it, he needs to be able to give an answer.

**Jeff:** Yes. Male leadership in the home doesn’t mean nothing. There is a book called *Each for the Other.* (The author) talks about male headship, and he says, *“Male headship doesn’t mean nothing.”* And that is sometimes what it’s reduced to when we think about the egalitarianism that’s so rampant in evangelicalism today. It basically means that the man does nothing except sit on the couch and be made fun of if you’re watching a sitcom, right?—that sort of thing; he’s mindless. That’s not what he does.

All right. Now the second thing is *stand firm in the faith.* Now this could be objective or it could be subjective. In other words, stand firm in the faith or stand firm in your faith; that is, what are we talking about here? A personal experience is worth standing in something.

I want to say that I think this is standing in something personally. In other words, to stand firm in the faith is to stand firm in the Christian faith. But to stand firm in my faith is part of the Christian faith; I think it’s both. In other words, I think that one of the things that we are supposed to do as men is not to be putty in our children’s hands, right? In other words, I want to tell you something. When I think about church history, this comes alive to me.

I think about church history. I oftentimes think about orthodox ministers whose children want to do something that they know better than to let them do, and they let them do it anyway. The father of modern liberalism is Frederich Schliermacher. Schliermacher’s dad was an orthodox Lutheran minister. And Schliermacher wanted to go to Yale so he could study theology and his dad knew it was liberal and knew better than to let him go. And one of the reasons why he didn’t want him to go was because he said that Frederich was prideful.

But you know what? His son begged him and begged him and begged him and begged him, and finally the father let him go. And it was through meeting those professors and having that success in that seminary that got him jobs and that led him on to publishing, and pretty soon we’re dealing with Frederich Schliermacher for a while. You know, this was about 300-plus years ago.

You know, I’ve heard stories upon stories like that, and my point to you is this: As a dad, as a grandad who gives counsel to your sons or your sons-in-law, don’t be afraid to tell your children no! It will do them good. Our problem is that we so fear that our kids won’t like us. And I say this to you: Who cares whether they like you now or not? Because if they don’t like you now they’ll probably love you in the future. Do you know what I mean?

I want to tell you this: I’ve seen dads as an example, and it’s hilarious. You get kids who grew up. You watch them grow up with their dads, and they can’t stand their dads. Their dad is too strict, and this and that. And then they get into their 30s, and they say, “Oh, my dad!”

“I was with you when you were going through those teen years. I know what you said about me!”

“Yeah, but you did right.”

“Okay.” I’m not saying that Dad was perfect. I’m not saying that our dads have achieved perfection. But oftentimes when our dads told us no they were right. And some of those things come back now to haunt us, but they actually help us.

Now again there are bad dads out there; I’m not saying there aren’t. I’m saying that in order to be a good dad, tell your kids no, tell your grandkids no. Those kinds of things are important. Stand firm in the faith.

*Be strong.* This is important. Isn’t it interesting? It’s different from the last one—be watchful—that was to be active and alert. Be strong is passive. In other words, let something happen to you. Be strengthened by who? By the Lord. There is a sense in which the Holy Spirit is at work in us, and we need to be a part of that happening.

So we need to enjoy that which happens to us. I mean, we’re going to be different men as we stand in the faith than we were even a year ago or six months ago. These are important things.

And the effect of this is an illustration that I think is just an excellent one. I used to have an intern who was a Para jumper. And I don’t know if you’re familiar with what’s going on with PJs. I have to give them a different name because PJs. Just doesn’t sound right. *(Laughter)* Para jumpers were the guys that would go in and rescue the Green Berets and the Navy Seals when they got into trouble. So they were like the special forces rescue team. And they were equipped as fighting units, and so forth.

So this guy I’m telling you about has a dream. And one of the things that they did was that they put him in a little box. And they would literally hold him up in that box, and he would go to sleep. They put him in the box one day and they told him, “Look. You are far too calm about this.” They said, “If you actually get confronted by the enemy, you are going to suffer terribly.”

So they told him and said, “What you need to do is, you need to act like this. Even if you’re not troubled by being put in a box like this, you need to act as if you are at some level so they think they’re getting to you.” That’s what they told him.

And I thought to myself. That’s a great illustration of the Christian life. We need to be so strengthened, we need to be so diligent, we need to be so Christlike in these things that we are calm about it. Now we don’t have to let people think that we’re not calm about it. But we need to be calm and in control about it. The Lord has us, even in a world that is frenetic; it’s great.

Well, let’s look at the compass of manhood. *“Let all that you do be done in love.”* Now what’s the context of this? The context of this is that in 1 Corinthians 1:11 there are divisions. In 3:1 there are Christians who are acting immaturely. If you’re not in Corinthians go back to 1 Corinthians 14:20. *“Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.”*

Now this letter is written to a group of people in the church who are acting like spiritual infants. And 1 Corinthians 13 comes along. And in 1 Corinthians 13 notice what it says. In verse 11 it says: *“When I was a child I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man I gave up childish ways.”*

In other words, this whole passage on love is basically saying that when you love like this, you become a man. And so stop acting like boys; start acting like men.

And when you think about it, you have this 1 Corinthians passage: *“Love is patient, love is kind.”* Love is this, love is that. When I was a child I thought in childish ways. Now that I’m a man I think in these kinds of ways. And I want you to couple that with John 13. Notice what it says; this is remarkable.

John 13:1. *“Before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”*

Now think about that; that’s a remarkable thing. Are you following me? If you look at love, love is maturity; love is being a man. Jesus is the Man who loved His own until the very end.

I didn’t read this; I don’t want to take the time to read this. But I think I should, at least part of it. Verse 4: *“Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”*

That’s maturity; that’s not infancy. And that’s what we see in Jesus. In fact there are some theologians like Jonathan Edwards for instance in the 1700s who would say that description of love that I just read is the description of Christ Himself; that’s the idea.

Well, let me talk to you about the companions of manliness. Paul points out some men: Stephanas, Achaia, Fortunas. Why does he do that? Why does he point them out? I’ll tell you why. He points them out because they are devoted to the service of others. That’s why he points them out. He says that these are men.

Why are they men? Because they are devoted to the service of others. They refresh others. They make up for what’s lacking in others. That’s a man; they’re manly!

And we ought to recognize that. We ought to ask ourselves: Is that the kind of man I am? Do I refresh others? Do I make up for what’s lacking in others? Boy, those are powerful questions. We ought to recognize and follow and rejoice over those kinds of men. Yes?

**John:** Don’t we see these characteristics in people that have nothing to do with the gospel?

**Jeff:** We do.

**John:** So—

**Jeff:** In a qualified sense, but yes.

**John:** Right; watchfulness and faithfulness to what?

**Jeff:** Yes, that’s the question.

**John:** Right. With courage and faithfulness, the people who ran the planes into the Twin Towers showed courage and faithfulness to their god. So as we think about these things, we do them because of our desire of loyalty to Jesus, because that is the only real definition of what being a man is. People who display those traits, but not in loyalty to Jesus, are not actually displaying what those really are, and they are not really being men.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**John:** People have faith. But you only have what we call saving faith if the object of your faith is Jesus Christ.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**John:** It’s the same thing with courage, the same thing with watchfulness, wakefulness. In all these things, the object and the reason that I’m doing those things is our love and obedience to Christ.

**Jeff:** Who is the definition of that love, right? And so you could say in one sense that the guys who flew into the towers had courage. But they didn’t have love, because even the Christian is called not just to love his own like the Muslim loves his own. But the Christian is to love his neighbor. And so that love in 1 Corinthians 13 is not just a love for one’s own, but it’s a love for neighbor. And I think that when you look at John 13:1, we were Jesus’ enemies when He loved us in that way.

And so you’re right. There’s a sense in which these kinds of characteristics can be seen to a certain extent, or even in some ways in a pseudo-way in others. But you’re right; it’s being in Christ that is the real difference, and it’s the whole difference.

**John:** It’s the motivation. It’s why we have the church. I want to be like Jesus.

**Jeff:** Yes, that’s right. Yes, because it can be frustrating as a father to continue to be watchful and faithful and all of these things, and to see your kids not responding in the appropriate way. I know dads who are like forget it!

No, you may not abdicate. Why? “They quit.”

No, you may not, because you are in Christ, and Christ says you may not, right? You have to love your own until the end.

**John:** He loved us so much that He died for us.

**Jeff:** Yes.

**John:** We have no choice but to obey Him.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Jordan Obaker:** Would the *Westminster Larger Catechism* help?

**Jeff:** Always. In fact I rely on you. *(Laughter)* I thought, where does Westminster come in?

**Jordan:** So you were mentioning that to be a man is to be like Christ. And we know that Christ obeyed the law perfectly.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Jordan:** And the *Westminster Larger Catechism* extrapolates the Fifth Commandment. *“What does it mean to honor thy father and mother?”*

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Jordan:** It says that it means we have duties in our various relationships as superiors, as inferiors and as equals. As men, if you’re a husband or a father, you have relationships where you are either inferior or superior. If you’re an employee you are inferior; you are equal to the brothers. And the *Westminster Larger Catechism,* starting with Q. 123 and going to Q. 133 tells you the duties in those relationships and the sins in those relationships.

**Jeff:** Absolutely.

**Jordan:** Which is what is required of superiors towards their inferiors. *“It requires of superiors, according to that power they receive from God and the relation wherein they stand, to love.”* That’s the first thing they said. *“To pray for and bless their inferiors, to instruct, counsel and admonish them, countenancing, commending and rewarding such as do well, and discountenancing, reproving and chastising such as do ill, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body, and by wise, holy and exemplary courage to procure glory to God on themselves, and so to preserve that authority which God hath bestowed on them.”* And as soon as you read that, that sounds like a man to me, all of those things.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Jordan:** And there are ten questions there: 123-133. I would encourage you all to take the time just to read through this because it goes into what the sins of a superior are and what the things a superior can do that are sinful. Again that sounds like not being a man. There is really good stuff there.

**Jeff:** That’s great. I can’t think of a better place to end; that’s very good.

Let’s pray. Gracious God, thank You for the day and for the blessing of life in Christ and for His example. Lord, we pray that You will help us to be men. Lord, we ask that You will give us instruction by Your Holy Spirit and by the wisdom of other brothers. And Father, we pray that we would walk in a way that is pleasing in Your sight. Lord, let us not only be pleasing to You, but let us be a pleasing aroma to our families, even as we love them, protect them and care for them and guide them, for we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Brave Men:** Amen. *(Applause)*