

Revelation 4:7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

1 Kings 2:1-3 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, **2** I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; **3** And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

lit. “be a man”

1 Chronicles 22:5 And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.

1 Kings 3:7-9 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. **8** And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. **9** Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

So, in that case, it had to do with being a grown-up man instead of a child.

David’s charge to Solomon, to be a man, had to do with being strongly determined to obey what the Bible says.

Isaiah 46:5-10 To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like? 6 They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship. 7 They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble. 8 Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. 9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Wycliffe: be ye aschamed Geneva: be ashamed
KJV, NKJV: show yourselves men
ESV: stand firm

H377 *iysh* to be a man - this is the only place in the Bible where this word is used from H376 *iysh* man

lit. to man; to manitize

we have the expression “man up”

we mean about the same thing when we say, “you need to grow up”

-a child might completely mis-understand something, and that would be appropriate to his age; or as a child plays, he might pretend something is real that isn't real

-an animal might completely mis-understand something, and that would be appropriate e.g. sheep with empty bucket; raccoon with a trap

-but a man, a grown-up, has no excuse for such misunderstanding or such pretending

So, the meaning is: use your mind to understand the truth about God.

It indicates the qualities of wisdom, understanding,

It indicates thinking, reason, logic, wit, sense, intelligence

1 Corinthians 14:18-20 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: 19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. 20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

Geneva: be of ripe age

NKJV, ESV: be mature

G546 *telios* complete, perfect, of full age

We know that children like to show what they can do. A child often will want someone's attention, "Look what I can do" or "Watch this." But often children don't understand what they're saying or doing.

I remember that when I was a child, I learned a song from the radio, "Delta Dawn." I used to love to get someone's attention and sing it. But I had no idea what the lyrics of the song meant.

A small child may repeat words he has heard, creating a mangled version because he doesn't understand what he's hearing.

Those things are understandable in children, but not in adults. So the apostle tells us not to be like children in understanding, but to be men in understanding.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Geneva, KJV: quit you like men

NKJV: be brave

ESV: act like men

G407 *andrizomai* literally "to man"

RWP: Play the man...show yourselves men

This saying seems to exhort Christians to courage.

The Martyrdom of Polycarp purports to give an eye-witness history of the martyrdom of Polycarp. According to that account, when Polycarp was being led into the arena, he and others heard a voice say, “Be strong, Polycarp and play the man!”

Oxford martyrs October 16, 1555 - Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley

Hugh Latimer: “Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle by God’s grace in England as shall never be put out.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the prime example of someone who did exactly this: to be the man!

Our pastors: Our Lord Jesus works in our pastors to make them able to “play the man.”

Every Christian: Our Lord Jesus works in all of His disciples to make us able to “play the man.”