

Genesis 1:26-31 – A House For My Name: The Glory of Masculinity – July 16,

2023

1. Kate Millett – *Sexual Politics*, 1970

2. Mallory Millett – *Feminism’s Ruined Lives*

a. *It was 1969. Kate invited me to join her for a gathering at the home of her friend, Lila Karp. They called the assemblage a “consciousness-raising-group,” a typical communist exercise, something practiced in Maoist China. We gathered at a large table as the chairperson opened the meeting with a back-and-forth recitation, like a Litany, a type of prayer done in Catholic Church. But now it was Marxism, the Church of the Left, mimicking religious practice:*

“Why are we here today?” she asked.

“To make revolution,” they answered.

“What kind of revolution?” she replied.

“The Cultural Revolution,” they chanted.

“And how do we make Cultural Revolution?” she demanded.

“By destroying the American family!” they answered.

“How do we destroy the family?” she came back.

“By destroying the American Patriarch,” they cried exuberantly.

“And how do we destroy the American Patriarch?” she replied.

“By taking away his power!”

“How do we do that?” “By destroying monogamy!” they shouted.

“How can we destroy monogamy?” Their answer left me dumbstruck, breathless, disbelieving my ears. Was I on planet earth? Who were these people? “By

promoting promiscuity, eroticism, prostitution and homosexuality!” they resounded. They proceeded with a long discussion on how to advance these goals by establishing The National Organization of Women. It was clear they desired nothing less than the utter deconstruction of Western society. The upshot was that the only way to do this was “to invade every American institution. Every one must be permeated with ‘The Revolution’”: The media, the educational system, universities, high schools, K-12, school boards, etc.; then, the judiciary, the legislatures, the executive branches and even the library system. It fell on my ears as a ludicrous scheme, as if they were a band of highly imaginative children planning a Brinks robbery; a lark trumped up on a snowy night amongst a group of spoiled brats over booze and hashish. To me, this sounded silly.

3. Sometimes, when people hate someone so much but are unable to get to them, they will make an effigy of that person and burn it, or beat it, or take target practice at it with their gun
 - a. Of course, nobody can reach up to strike God across the face, so those who hate Him must resort to striking at an image of Him
 - b. That image, as we have just read, is man and woman
 - c. Ultimately, what is behind all the sexual perversion of our day, what is behind the transgender madness, what is behind masculine women and effeminate men, whether they know it or not, is hatred for God
 - d. The sexual revolution is a proxy war against the God of Heaven Himself
 - e. Define *revolution*

4. This morning, when we look at masculine glory, we need to remember that we are doing so as a people who are 60 years deep into the sexual revolution
 - a. For most of us, this is the air we have been breathing our entire lives, and we are entirely unaware of how deeply we've been influenced by it
 - b. Before we go further, I want you to take a minute just to consider how many ideas that you currently think are 'obvious' are not at all obvious in terms of a biblical worldview.
 - i. We do catechism at Trinity. This is the classical Christian way to teach children through repetition.
 - ii. But catechism happens whether we are intentional about it or not.
 1. Laugh track on sitcoms whenever the father would step in to lead his family
 2. Disney movies
 - a. Free-spirited young child who wants to be free from limitation
 - b. A traditional dad who attempts to restrain
 - c. Resolution is achieved when dad realizes that his teenage child is indeed much wiser than the accumulated wisdom of the ages
 - c. Male and female are God's creative work; so His design and His instructions must be ultimate and unrivaled
5. Even in so-called conservative Christian circles, we have made compromises with the revolutionaries

- a. Sometimes people who are openly hostile to the Bible are more honest than squishy evangelicals
 - b. Evangelicals know they are obligated to obey Scripture, and when obedience starts to look difficult, they tend to engage in rather creative and fanciful Greek word studies and theological gymnastics
 - c. Revolutionaries and theological liberals don't feel any need to obey God, and so they are sometimes very straightforward in their assessments
 - d. They will often outrightly admit that the Bible is full of male headship, and will openly declare a war between feminism and the biblical vision
 - e. Squishy evangelicals just want both sides to have fun and get to work trying to blend systems of thought
 - f. This morning as we look at the story that God is telling through masculinity and femininity, I want us to be honest. The Bible and the sexual revolution offer diametrically opposed views, and compromise really isn't possible.
 - g. In the 1930s, Neville Chamberlain went to negotiate peace with Hitler, he came back cheerfully to the British people and promised them that they would have peace in their time
 - i. Churchill boldly told PM Chamberlain that he had a choice between war and dishonour. "*You chose dishonour, and you will have war.*"
6. When it comes to affirming the proper role of men and women, passages like Ephesians 5, 1 Timothy 2, and 1 Corinthians 14 make it more or less impossible for anyone who claims to obey Scripture to deny that men are indeed to lead in the church and in the home

- a. This is good, but please take careful note of an important difference here
- b. If we *start* with egalitarian assumptions that men and women are more or less interchangeable, except for reproduction, that there's no fundamental or basic creational differences between men and women and then we start to impose differences in a few arbitrary places like the home or the church, it will seem like we're limiting women, or like we're not sure that women can be intelligent or articulate, or organized.
 - i. But gender must be about far more than reproduction, since God has also baked into creation forms of reproduction in cells and in plants that don't require distinct male and female copies
 - ii. But the Bible never once bases its arguments for gender roles on the fact that men are smarter, or that women aren't capable public speakers
 - iii. Scripture bases its arguments in design. In creation. In God's purposes.
 - iv. Remember that fundamentally, gender is symbolic.
 - 1. *Symbolism doesn't mean that something isn't real. Symbolism means that real things have meaning.* It means that they're designed to communicate something about ultimate reality.
 - 2. We saw last week that God made male and female, and gave them marriage in order to give us a real life role play so we could understand Christ and the Church better
- c. So our job is not to start with egalitarian assumptions and then make exceptions when it seems like the Bible is forcing us to

- d. Our job is to start with biblical assumptions that while men and women are both human and both equally valuable image bearers, there is a fundamental creational difference between men and women, and this is good.
 - i. A world without difference would be boring and bland
 - 1. Egalitarianism is always bland for this reason
 - 2. Soviet architecture is monotonous for the same reason that feminism is. It allows for no glory and no beauty because it sees no design and no difference.
 - ii. But God has made a world with day and night, water and land, fish and birds, farmland and mountains, male and female, and this is both interesting and beautiful.
- e. If we start with a biblical and creational view of male and female, of masculinity and femininity, we will see a world rich with meaning. We'll see a story of Christ and His bride, of self-sacrifice and beauty. We'll see that the reason we've enchanted ourselves with stories about knights, dragons, and princesses is because those stories are all copies of the original.
 - i. The story of creation, fall, redemption, and glorification, the story of Christ coming to redeem a bride so that together, side by side, they can rebuild a glorious kingdom out of the ruins, is the original template for all our lesser 'kill the dragon, get the girl' stories
 - ii. In other words, male headship in the home and in the church are not *exceptions* in an otherwise egalitarian world. They are specific and important *examples* of the way God has ordered *creation generally*. He

has been pleased to tell a cosmos-wide story through creating both male and female image bearers.

1. Difference between *patriarchy* and *complementarianism*
2. This means that male headship and male responsibility are everywhere
 - a. A nation whose federal cabinet is 50% women is a nation who is very sick
3. So, for example, if you look closely at Ephesians 5:23, you'll see it says "*For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.*"
4. It doesn't say that he ought to be the head, or that it's ideal if he becomes the head.
5. He *is* the head. This passage isn't just an instruction. It's a description of objective reality.
6. Because God has made men to image the masculinity of Christ, men cannot opt out of their headship.
 - a. If a man attempts to opt out, he is just leading poorly
 - b. If a man lets his wife rule the home, this will quickly become the most obvious feature in the house. Everyone will be frustrated.
 - c. If a man attempts to opt out by leaving his responsibilities all together, it will turn out that he is still leading. His

empty chair at the table is clearly what's in charge. Father hunger will be the aroma that fills this home.

iii. The inevitability of male headship frequently shows up in the classroom as well

1. It is no secret that given our methods of education (that's another topic for another day), boys frequently fall behind the girls

2. The image of God in those boys knows by instinct that there's something upside down here if the girls are dominating the classroom

a. Either the boys will feel like it's helpless and they'll become passive

b. Or they will find other ways to take charge again

i. This will take shape in the form of paper airplanes and spitballs

ii. This is a great place to pause for a moment and point something important out

1. When we zoom all the way out to give a Scriptural explanation of the world, we will frequently find that people do not understand the meaning of what they're doing.

2. When a boy stands on a diving board, calls attention to himself, and then does

something risky, he's doing what he wants.

But he doesn't really know the significance of why he's wired to be this way.

3. Little boys come out and everything is a gun or a sword. Little girls come out and everything is a baby.

- a. VICE piece where daughter raised by lesbians was tucking her Tonka trucks into bed.

4. Snowball fight with Tanya when Clint was about 3

3. Male headship is inevitable. Men were designed to image Christ, and this law is as fixed as gravity. If you think you're beating it, you're on your way to a rather messy encounter with reality.

7. 1 Corinthians 16:13 – *“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”*

- a. Being watchful and standing firm are how we are to *act like men*
- b. For good measure, Paul adds that acting like men includes being strong
- c. This is consistent with the whole description of masculinity in Scripture
- d. It takes strength to stand against the stream. It takes strength to stay awake at night and pray for your children who aren't walking with the Lord. It takes strength to give more to the church body when you're playing hurt. It takes strength to love your wife when she's not acting particularly lovely. It takes strength to obey God when it's going to be painful.

- i. these things are the duties of all Christians in one sense, but it is the glory of men to lead the charge in doing it
 - ii. men are like highway tractors – they run best when they’re pulling a load
 - 1. men, you are designed to do hard things, so get at it
- 8. Proverbs 20:29 – *“The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.”*
 - a. The reminders of the passage of time is a poignant thing for men
 - b. When you see a grandfather with his young grandson, you are hit by a certain romance about an old man’s memories and a young boy’s dreams
 - c. Something right is happening when young men train in strength and manhood at the hands of older men
 - i. 1 John 2:14 (NKJV) – *“I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him [who is] from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.”*
 - ii. Bad things happen when young men pool their ignorance and try to give each other sage advice
 - 1. After Solomon dies, his son Rehoboam takes his place
 - 2. When the people make requests of him, instead of listening to the wisdom of the old men who counseled his father, he acts like a fool and consults his peers
 - 3. Rehoboam’s friends were the equivalent of lazy self-serving men who spend their time with the boys instead of building a godly

family, and then blame other people when they can't figure out why things aren't going well

4. This cost him the kingdom, and it cuts many young men today off from a future of blessing and honour
5. One thing I have frequently noticed is that some the men who are most eager to give advice are the ones who don't have their own family or finances or businesses in order
 - a. Offering wisdom to others is a way to compensate for their own lack of discipline
- d. God's glory is the starting point and the central focus of everything
 - i. All lesser glory in the universe is a reflection of His, since all things are from Him, through Him, and for Him
- e. The glory of masculinity is the glory that comes from accurately portraying the masculinity of God; the masculinity of Christ as He faithfully and gently husbands His church
- f. Men are glorious when they reflect the strength that they were designed to reflect
- g. Woven through Scripture, from creation on, we see a pattern of what men are for
 - i. Build
 - ii. Fight
 - iii. Protect
 - iv. Lead
- h. The glory of men is their strength. It is what they do with the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual strength that God has given them. And this requires

courage. C.S. Lewis says that courage is not merely one of the virtues, but it is every virtue at its testing point. So biblical masculine strength is the commitment to virtue despite the pain, despite the suffering, even to the point of death. Biblical manhood is constantly watchful and steadfast in the faith, and courage holds the line, standing fast, when everything seems to be falling apart, when it doesn't look like it's working. This masculine courage fundamentally trusts in Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life. He will raise us from this difficulty or else He will raise us from the dead.

- i. The worst thing that can happen is your death, and we believe in the resurrection for those who are in Christ. So masculine courage shouldn't be so hard to find.

9. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB) – *“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”*

- a. Frequently the Greek words here have all been collapsed into the word ‘homosexual’ in English
- b. The Greek wording covers a range of meaning which refers to both the active and the passive partners in homosexual acts, but it also includes μαλακοί, or *soft men*
- c. *Effeminacy is softness in men, particularly at the very places where we are called to be hard and strong and courageous. This is sometimes as simple as cowardice*

and fear (Dt. 20:8, Jdg. 7:3), but that trembling, especially in the face of battle, the Bible describes as acting like a woman (Is. 19:16, Jer. 48:41, 49:22, 51:30). This softness can also be a confusion of glory, seeking the glory of a woman through inordinate care and concern for appearances and luxury (Dt. 22:5, Mt. 11:8, Lk. 7:25). The woman is the glory of man, and this glory is in her beauty and beautiful way of cultivating life (Gen. 2:23, 1 Cor. 11:7). This is why it is right and proper for a woman to glory in her long hair, and it is shameful for men to give undue attention to their appearances (1 Cor. 11:14-15). And this softness in men is not at all unrelated to the homosexuality in our day (1 Cor. 6:9). And so we must practice strength and courage as men and teach it to our boys.

- d. Effeminacy in men keeps one from the kingdom just the same as drunkenness, adultery, or covetousness. It is a serious sin.
- e. Soft men are a scourge and a curse on the people of God and this is why God would rather have Gideon lead a small army of courageous men rather than a large army that included effeminate cowards.
- f. How many times in the OT do the leaders of Israel tell their army that anyone who doesn't have the stomach for what needs to be done should go home
 - i. Jesus goes through a similar culling process in John 6:60-71. After He preaches some hard edged and angular doctrine about the sovereignty of God in salvation, He invites people to leave if they're not committed to the mission.
 - ii. In v. 66 we read that "*After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.*"

g. While we certainly do have a plague of sexual rebellion and confusion in the world, driven by many soft men in the Church, we should not miss the fact that men can often disguise their softness as strength. But God calls men to use their strength obediently, and this means taking responsibility and choosing the obedient sacrifice. God created Adam first, so that he could be cut open first. Man was made first so that he might bleed first. Men love courage and heroism, and so they do not usually embrace pure cowardice openly or immediately. Instead, a man will choose a disobedient sacrifice and decorate it with suffering, acting like victims, but this is just cowardice masquerading as courage. So a man may go hunting or work on the car instead of pursuing his wife, training his children, or starting a new business, school, or church. And by the same token, sometimes a man needs to go hunting or learn to work on his car and get out of the office. The point is responsible obedience.

i. Just doing hard things isn't enough. The hard things must be obedient to God.

1. When God laid Adam down to open him up and take a bride from his side, this was hard. Had Adam offered instead to go rebuild a transmission, this may also have been challenging, but it would have been a dodge instead of an act of obedience.

ii. Because there is such an incredible emptiness in men in our culture, because masculinity has been treated like a disease, young men especially can be lured by counterfeits

- iii. They'll grow up knowing that their educators and their churches are missing something.
 - 1. Feminine piety looks decidedly different than true holiness
 - 2. Temperance Movement vs. the untamed holiness of Aslan
 - a. Men who know the joy and the camaraderie of going into battle together
- iv. They know instinctively that feminism offers nothing more than a sucking chest wound, and then when hucksters like Andrew Tate come along, it looks close enough to the real thing that boys are drawn in.
- v. Thankfully there are also some more mature voices out there, like Jordan Peterson.
 - 1. I don't know if Jordan Peterson is a Christian yet or not, but he's come from a background of psychology at a pagan university
 - a. He's given some good practical advice that I would wholeheartedly tell young men to follow
 - i. Stand upright with your shoulders and chest upright
 - ii. Look people in the eye when you're talking
 - iii. Give a firm handshake
 - iv. Walk like God's given you something to accomplish
 - 1. Fern – Landmark Feeds
 - 2. *Where have the pastors and the Christian fathers been?!*

3. The fake masculinity of men like Andrew Tate is self serving and self indulgent.
 - a. These guys use women for their own pleasure instead of using their strength to build, fight, protect, and lead *for* women
 - b. This is just another kind of softness that looks tough on the outside
 - c. But men who love the mirror and who refuse to use their strength properly are effeminate
 - d. *Weak men are hard on those around them. Strong men are hard for those around them.*
4. King David fell into this trap right before his sin with Bath Sheba
 - a. The Bible says that it was spring time, when the men were supposed to go out to war
 - b. David should have been leading from the front, but here he was, in the comfort of home, leading from the rear
 - c. His self-indulgence led to greater self-indulgence which led to a civil war inside his own family
5. Effeminacy comes in various forms, but is always marked by softness
 - a. Femininity is a glory when it is found in women
 - b. But in men it is marked by self-indulgence and mirror gazing

- c. The self-righteous person who prides himself in following man made rules is looking at his obedience in the mirror
- d. The indifferent person who doesn't care who he offends when he's serving himself is also busy looking at himself in the mirror
- e. Masculinity is about putting your strength to work to bless others around you
 - i. Masculinity takes responsibility for others
 - ii. It takes trouble for others where weak fools and the effeminate make trouble for others
 - iii. *Biblical masculinity is the glad assumption of sacrificial responsibility*

10. Proverbs 31:3 – *“Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings.”*

- a. It would be outrightly neglectful to talk about masculinity without acknowledging the weakest spot in most men's armor – sex
- b. The desire for sex is itself a good instinct from God Himself, but just like all other instincts, it has to be disciplined into obedience to Christ
- c. A man's strength is to be used to build, and caving in to sexual temptation kills
- d. The Proverbs warn so many times about how a man is brought to nothing when he gives his strength away rather than uses it to obey Christ
- e. Samson very literally gave away his strength in exchange for sex

- f. *But this is what all sexual sin is: an offer of fake respect in exchange for empty pleasure. Real respect is shown in commitment, loyalty, obedience, encouragement, praise, and service. A wife swears to honor and obey you in the Lord, which makes you a stronger man. But “by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread” (Prov. 6:26)*
- i. Women, when you give the real thing and honour and obey your husband, you are making him stronger
- g. In 1 Kings 11 we read of Solomon’s many wives and concubines and how they turned his heart away from the Lord
- i. We know about the glory of the temple that Solomon built for the Lord, but we also read that he build high places and shrines for their pagan gods also
 - ii. In exchange for sex, think of how much of the Lord’s money, time, and capital got wasted.
 - iii. How much harm did this cause not only in Solomon’s family, but for the nation of Israel?
 - iv. Mysterious dimension to this headship
 - 1. Women can struggle in surprising ways when men cave to pornography and sexual sin, even if they are unaware of the sin itself
 - 2. In a way I can’t describe, in my experience there is a providential link to being weak on this front and then being forced to watch your wife suffer

- v. If you are a man, you are a patriarch of your own tribe, or you will likely be one one day
 - 1. What are you building? Don't despair if you're suddenly seeing the wasted resources. Christ died to forgive cowards. Christ died to forgive men who have given their strength away.
 - 2. Once Christ has pardoned you, then man your station and do things that will build a potent tribe in the kingdom of God
 - a. Lay down your life for your woman and your children like Christ did in order to build His kingdom

11. SUMMARY

- a. God made men to reflect His own masculine glory and strength
- b. As a result, it is a non-negotiable fact that men are always leading, we cannot opt out of this
 - i. We will either lead like Adam who left his wife unprotected, and thus by his weak leadership, cast his entire family and his entire world into ruin
 - ii. Or we will lead like Christ, who remained firmly committed to making His bride beautiful by taking her back, forgiving her, and cleansing her when she falls
- c. How often do we men follow Adam instead of Christ?
 - i. Adam makes himself out to be the victim when his wife fell
 - ii. "This woman you gave me"
 - iii. How often do we complain instead of work?

- iv. How often do we leave our women and children unprotected and vulnerable to the snares of the world, the flesh, and the devil?
- d. What should Adam have done instead?
 - i. He should have taken Eve by the hand, gone to God and said “Lord, look at what *we* did. I’m sorry. This happened on my watch, and I’m responsible. Please take my life and spare the woman.”
 - ii. We know this is what Adam should have done because it’s what Christ did do
- e. All this makes our mandate much more clear as men
 - i. We are leading at all times, and this means we’re setting the temperature
 - ii. This isn’t an occasional act, but an ongoing culture we’re creating as we lead our wives and children, our churches and businesses and communities
 - iii. We can’t opt out of culture – it’s there wherever we go, and we are responsible for how we’re moulding it
 - 1. This frees us from the desperation of heavy-handedness or putting your foot down
 - 2. If things get to a point where you need to put your foot down, many things have already gone wrong – they shouldn’t have gotten to that point in the first place
- f. we often hear about ‘servant leadership’
 - i. this is good in the sense that it reminds us that male headship is not about heavy handed authority and bluster, but about protecting the best interests of those around us

- ii. but this can go too far and give the impression that we're doing a good job of leading when we just do what everyone tells us to do
 - 1. Christ leads from the front; it is Adam and David and Solomon who lead from the rear
 - 2. So we are not to be the kind of leaders who never make a decision, and if we did, nobody would care
- iii. When you hear 'servant leadership' be reminded that we do not lead by serving; rather, we serve by leading
 - 1. It is a great protection to those around us if they have a brick wall between them and the world, committed to their protection
 - 2. This is how we serve those God has entrusted to us – by not exposing them to the elements
 - a. We don't lead by serving; we serve by leading
 - b. If you're doing this well, you are always getting input and counsel from your wife and from those around you – only a fool doesn't seek counsel from those he's leading, but it does mean once a decision is made, it's your decision
 - c. If you want to go to a restaurant and your wife would prefer a picnic, and after discussing it you decide the picnic is the best route, then if it starts raining, you're not allowed to say 'well this was your idea'. NO! *We* made the decision, and I wear it. Owning your decisions is part of the protection that men are designed to give to women.

- d. Women are sinners too, and we'll also look at sins common to women next week, so your wife very well may have helped create a difficult situation
 - i. But biblical masculinity means seeing the difference between fault and responsibility
 - ii. If some crew member slams a ship into an ice berg while the captain is asleep, it is the crewman's fault, but it's the captain's responsibility
 - iii. If your home is out of order, I don't care what percent is your wife's fault and what percent is your fault. It's *your* responsibility to take your family before the Lord and get it fixed.
- g. As you do this, you'll notice something else – authority flows to those who take responsibility
 - i. Plenty of young men want to become leaders in church, or in civics, or they want to demand the respect of their families, but if they start by grabbing authority, they'll notice it always escapes them.
 - ii. Authority is not something that can be grasped, but it is bestowed by others when they see that you are willing to bleed and die for them
 - iii. When they see you truly following Christ, willing to give your life for theirs, you're willing to bleed and take pain on yourself to make their lives easier, you will find authority naturally flowing to you – so don't be grabby!

- h. If you're unmarried and thinking about the kind of woman you want, or if you're married and unhappy with the kind of person your wife is becoming, run a simple thought experiment
 - i. What kind of woman do you want? Now, think of what kind of man *that* woman desires, and start being him
 - ii. *Be the kind of person that the kind of person you want to marry, wants to marry*
- i. The glory of men is indeed their strength, and the perfect display of masculine strength is Christ Himself, a man who took trouble for others
- j. He is the perfect example of the glad assumption of sacrificial responsibility

12. CHARGE

- a. *The glory of men is their strength. Men were made to do hard things. Men were made to bear heavy loads. When men work out physically, they get stronger. When men push themselves to do more, they generally get better at it. It's trendy in our world, even our Christian world to warn one another about burnout and over-doing it, but where in the Bible are we warned about that? The Bible certainly instructs us to take a weekly Sabbath, a day of rest, but beyond that, it says we are to be known for hard, diligent work, and it warns us against sloth, laziness, and cowardice over and over. David fell into sexual sin in the springtime when kings were supposed to go out to battle. So where is the battle that God is calling you to? Is it dealing with a sin in your life? Is it leading your wife or family more intentionally? Is it starting some new venture, a new project? Does it*

look hard? Will it require suffering? Might you mess up along the way? You were made for this. This is your glory in Christ.

13. BENEDICTION

- a. 1 Corinthians 16:13 – *“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”*