

LIVE 2017: 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

June 4, 2017

When we read "act like men" in this verse it may perk up our ears as it broaches the topic of gender. It may even make you uncomfortable. And though your community group discussion might hit on the topic, 1 Corinthians 16 isn't about defining gender roles, and it wasn't intended to define masculinity. Don't let those three words rob you of the heart of this passage.

"Act like men" was a charge, and it appears in the Greek version of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, multiple times. The Greek word there is *andrizomai*, meaning, "Be brave!" This is really just a pep-talk phrase, and Paul chose it because it has some military edginess to it. It could be easy for women to read this passage and feel left out of the conversation, but through it God is telling us, both men and women, to be watchful and courageous in our faith like a good soldier. He is charging us to stand firm in the faith, to be confident in his power, and to "let all that [we] do be done in love."

Discussion

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

- How does this passage reflect back on 1 Corinthians 13?
- Why do you think Paul is so serious about his charge to "stand firm"?
- In what ways can you work on standing firm in the faith?
- How does doing all things in love strengthen you?
- How does standing firm in the faith help you rely on Jesus more?
- How does standing firm in the faith help you tell others about Jesus?



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