

“SURROUNDED!”
Father’s Day 2010

We’re men. We’re supposed to be surrounded!

*“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, ACT LIKE MEN, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love” (1Corinthians 16:13,14).*

Paul makes a verb out of the word man. He turns “man” into an action verb.

Four ways to be a man of action:

*“BE ON THE ALERT, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.”*

1. A man who is acting like a man fights with his eyes wide open to the enemies all around.

*“Be on the alert, STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH, act like men, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.”*

2. A man who is acting like a man stands firm in the truth of God’s Word.

*“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, **BE STRONG**.
Let all that you do be done in love.”*

3. A man who is acting like a man will be surrounded by chaos, but also empowered with God’s strength.

*“**FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD, AND IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm**” (Ephesians 6:10-13).*

*“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.
LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE.”*

4. A man who is acting like a man will be striving to love well, not just to live well.

“When the energy God has placed within a man is released,

1. the man knows he is strong, not powerless. Strong men take the initiative, even when they’re not sure what to do. Their calling to reflect God in their manner of relating compels them more than their hope for power or their fear of impotence. A manly man is not an aggressive man; he is an ACTIVE MAN, involved in offering quality relationships to others, more committed to developing a strength that others can enjoy than to achieving for himself a sense of power and control.

2. the man experiences a state of being less angry, less easily threatened. Some call it peace. For him the phrase “more than a conqueror” means something, even during life’s hard moments. A manly man’s pain doesn’t interfere with his feeling the plight of others, even when their troubles are less severe than his. He has the courage to face his experience honestly. He therefore feels the sadness of living in a fallen world, and the loneliness of living in imperfect community.

But his sadness and loneliness generate only a righteous anger, the kind that stirs compassion for people, while it remains offended by sin. A released man is not abusive; he is a GENTLE MAN, not weak, a man whose power is controlled for good purposes.

3. the man finds an answer to his terror: in FREEDOM. No matter what happens in life, manly men always find room to move. There is always something to BE, even when there is nothing to DO. When their families fall apart or their businesses collapse, manly men – like unmanly men – are tempted to lash out in vengeance or to retreat into relief. But they do neither. They are drawn by the opportunity to exhibit something good, to reflect the always hopeful movement of God. They move through trials with a presence that others, more than they, notice.

Manly men are enticed by the joys of freedom, by the unhindered chance to follow the call of manhood. A manly man is not addicted; he treats his body roughly, to avoid coming under a foreign power. He fights hard against his relentless desire for pleasure. He moves according to a plan. He is a PURPOSEFUL MAN who knows what he’s about and what he can contribute to the purpose for which he is living.

Every day, we move either toward godly manhood or away from it. One of the great tragedies of our day is that so many men are walking a path that they think leads to the joys of legitimate masculinity. It may be many years before those moving in wrong directions realize that the path they have been following releases masculine energy that is more corrupt than genuine, and that this path leaves them even more powerless, bitter, and terrified. *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death” (Proverbs 14:12).*”

Larry Crabb, *The Silence of Adam*, pp.48,49.

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