



## Practical Solutions To Problems In The Church

1 Corinthians 16:10-14

### Paul Addressed Problems in the Church at Corinth ...

- Division / denominationalism – Chapters 1 and 3
- Worldly wisdom – Chapter 2
- Immorality being accepted – Chapter 5
- Brethren suing brethren – Chapter 6
- Marriage relationship – Chapter 7
- Liberties / Eating of meat – Chapters 8 and 10

### Paul Addressed Problems in the Church at Corinth ...

- Preaching of the gospel – Chapter 9
- Liberties – Chapter 10
- Worship / Lord's Supper – Chapter 11
- Use of spiritual gifts – Chapters 12-14
- False teaching re: resurrection – Chapter 15
- Christian benevolence – Chapter 16

Then we come to  
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Random Admonitions?

Or

Practical Solutions?

## Consider the context

### Warnings for the SLUMBERING

- **“Be on the alert”**
  - First of 4 military terms. **Matthew 24:43**
  - To keep **awake and watchful**. Give **strict attention** in order to **avert calamity**.
  - **“Vigilance and expectancy** as contrasted with **laxity and indifference ... spiritual alertness”** (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
- How many problems arise because brethren are simply lax and indifferent and could be avoided through vigilance and watchfulness?

### Warnings for the SLUMBERING

- This was a warning to the church at Sardis (**Revelation 3:2-3**) **“Wake up!”**
- It's to be our **mode of life** (**1 Thessalonians 5:4-8**) **“... let us not sleep as others do ... be alert and sober”**
- Do we **pray for it and with it?** (**Colossians 4:2**)
- Consider the admonition to the Ephesian elders (**Acts 20:31**), **“be on the alert”** – (**Matthew 26:38-41**).

### Warnings for the SLUMBERING

- Because ...
  - Of our adversary (1 Peter 5:8)
  - We don't know when He'll come again (Matthew 24:42-44; 25:13; Mark 13:33-37)
  - **Error and division** only need a tiny crack to begin to grow and spread. (Galatians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 5:6)

### Warnings for the UNSTEADY

- ***“Stand firm in the faith”***
  - We need the strength not to be ***“tossed here and there ... and carried about by every wind of doctrine.”*** (Ephesians 4:14)
  - Literally means to **stand upright**. To be stationary – **not moved about**. Without vacillation. **Unwavering**.
  - **How many problems can be avoided ...**

### Warnings for the UNSTEADY

- What are we to ***“stand firm”*** in?
  - 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, ***“The gospel ... in which also you stand ... if you hold fast the word ...”***
  - The same as ***“the faith”*** – Acts 13:7-12; cf. Galatians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Jude 3
- Includes what the apostles taught and displayed in their lives (2 Thessalonians 2:15; Philippians 4:9)

### Warnings for the UNSTEADY

- **Determined by our conduct** – employed by our mind and spirit (Philippians 1:27)
- We need an anchor. (Hebrews 6:19).
- What's at stake? Eternal life only if we **“stand firm”** (1 Thessalonians 3:8)

### Warnings for the IMMATURE

- ***“Act like men”***
  - Spiritual maturity will **solve a lot of problems**.
  - From the Greek word *andrizo* and means **maturity accentuated by courage** in the face of battle. (Vine)
  - **Not** to be characterized by **timidity** – 2 Timothy 1:7

### Warnings for the IMMATURE

- The idea of **becoming complete** – **mature** and **fully grown**. Matthew 19:21; 1 Corinthians 14:20; **Philippians 3:15-16**; Ephesians 4:13; **Colossians 1:28**; James 1:4; Hebrews 5:14
- It has to be **pursued**, Hebrews 6:1
- **Never ending** – 1 Peter 2:1-3
- In **“all aspects”** of our life – Ephesians 4:15

### Warnings for the WEAK

- **“Be strong”**
  - Another military concept.
    - Must be strong to overcome – **“He who overcomes”** (7 times in **Revelation Chapters 2 and 3**)
  - Strength is achieved through
    - **Nourishment** and
    - **Exercise.**

### Warnings for the WEAK

- **“Be strong”**
  - **Nourishment.**
    - On the words of faith – **1 Timothy 4:6** – lack of faith = lack of strength (**Matthew 13:20-21**)
    - **“Wake up and strengthen the things that remain”** (**Revelation 3:2**)
    - **“Strengthen your hearts”** (**James 5:7-8**)
    - **Hebrews 12:12-13**, **“Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak ...”**

### Warnings for the WEAK

- **Exercise –**
  - Practice and training makes one stronger – **Hebrews 5:14**, **“... because of practice have their senses trained ...”**
  - We need **“training in righteousness”** (**2 Timothy 3:16**)
  - We must complete our training, **Luke 6:40**
  - It's a battle (**Ephesians 6:10-17**) ...
    - ... to the end! (**Mark 13:13**)

### Warnings for the UNMOTIVATED

- **“Let all that you do be done in love”**
  - Without love, it profits us nothing. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**
  - Solution to their problems. **1 Corinthians 8:1; 14:1**
  - **Philippians 2:1-3; 1 John 4:7-8; 1 Peter 1:22**
  - It's the perfect bond of unity. **Colossians 3:14**

### Practical solutions for problems in the church

- For the slumbering – **“Be on the alert”**
- For the unsteady – **“Stand firm in the faith”**
- For the immature – **“Act like men”**
- For the weak – **“Be strong”**
- For the unmotivated – **“Let all that you do be done in love”**