

Practical Solutions To Problems In The Church

1 Corinthians 16:1-14

Paul Addressed Problems in the Church at Corinth...

- Division/denominationalism – Ch's 1 & 3
- Worldly wisdom – Ch. 2
- Immorality being accepted – Ch. 5
- Brethren suing brethren – Ch. 6
- Marriage relationship – Ch. 7
- Liberties/Eating of meat – Ch. 8 & 10

Paul Addressed Problems in the Church at Corinth...

- Preaching of the gospel – Ch. 9
- Use of scriptures – Ch. 10
- Worship / Lord's Supper – Ch. 11
- Use of spiritual gifts – Ch's 12-14
- False teaching re: resurrection – Ch. 15
- Christian benevolence – Ch. 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 used. Mt. 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 (Rev. 3:2-3) **“Wake up!”**
- It's to be our **mode of life** (1 Thess. 5:4-8) **“...let us not sleep as others do... be alert and sober”**
- Do we **pray for it & with it?** (Col. 4:2)
- Consider the admonition to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:31), **“be on the alert”** – (Matt. 26:28-41), **“...keep watch with Me...”**
- Preventive medicine...

Warnings for the **SLUMBERING**

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

Warnings for the **SLUMBERING**

- All Christians should be alert for such things as:
 - False teachers.
 - Worldliness.
 - Opportunities to serve.
 - The time for judgment

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.”** (Eph. 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 Cor. 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., 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 1:23; Col. 1:23; 1 Tim. 4:1, 6; 2 Tim. 4:7; Titus 1:13; Jude 3
- Includes what the apostles taught & displayed in their lives (2 Thess. 2:15) & speaks of **“traditions”** (patterns) taught **“by word”** or **“by letter from us”**. Phil. 4:9

Warnings for the **UNSTEADY**

- Can't we see the need to be **anchored in true Bible authority** and the **problems caused when we're not?**
- **Determined by our conduct** – employed by our mind and spirit (Phil. 1:27)
- The UNSTEADY need **deeper faith** –
 - (Rom. 10:17; Luke 17:5-10)
- We need an **anchor**. (Heb. 6:19).
 - Eternal life only if we **“stand firm”** (1 Thess. 3:8)

Warnings for the **IMMATURE**

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

Warnings for the **IMMATURE**

- Also includes the idea of **becoming complete** – mature & fully grown.
Matt. 19:21; 1 Cor. 14:20; Phil. 3:15-16;
Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28; James 1:4; Heb. 5:14
- It has to be **pursued**, Heb. 6:1
- **Never ending** – 1 Pet. 2:1-3
- In **“all aspects”** of our life – Eph. 4:15

Warnings for the **WEAK**

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

Warnings for the **WEAK**

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

Warnings for the **WEAK**

- **Exercise –**
 - Practice & training makes one stronger – Heb. 5:14, **“...because of practice have their senses trained...”**
 - We need **“training in righteousness”**, 2 Tim. 3:16
 - We must complete our training, Luke 6:40
 - It’s a battle (Eph. 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 Cor. 13:1-3
 - Solution to their problems. 1 Cor. 8:1; 14:1
- Phil. 2:1-3; 1 John 4:7-8; 1 Peter 1:22
- It’s the perfect bond of unity. Col. 3:14

Practical solutions for problems in the church

- **“Be on the alert”**
- **“Stand firm in the faith”**
- **“Act like men”**
- **“Be strong”**
- **“Let all that you do be done in love”**