

QUIT YE LIKE MEN

By Brother Mike Sutherland

Turn in your Bibles to *1 Corinthians 16:13*:

¹³ Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. *1 Corinthians 16:13*

The biggest problem we have in our churches today is that the majority of our males are weak, effeminate men who will not stand fast in the faith. While that is less true in our Independent Baptist Churches, it is becoming less and less so. That word effeminate only occurs once in our King James Bibles and that is in *1 Corinthians 6:9-10* where it appears in an extended list of unsaved sinners that will not inherit the kingdom of God. Outside of saving faith and repentance, they are going to hell. The definition that follows is extracted from the unabridged Oxford English Dictionary of 1897:

When used as an adjective, effeminate means: womanish, unmanly, enervated, feeble; self indulgent, voluptuous; unbecomingly delicate or over-refined. When used as a verb, effeminate means: to make into a woman ; to represent as a woman, to make womanish or unmanly, to enervate. When used as the participle effeminated, it means: rendered womanish or unmanly, reduced to the employments of a woman, or degraded by subjection to a woman.

I believe that the definition of the verb form of “effeminate” perfectly fits the Satanic transgender agenda that abominates the boundaries that God has set in the creation of man and woman. Note that the definition of the verb form states: to make into a woman or to represent as a woman. It is something that is not natural. It is contrived. No matter how many surgeries these perverts have, their genetic make up in their chromosomes is still either male or female and it CANNOT be altered by the surgeon’s knife. Running hand in hand with the devils who promote the abomination of abortion is the devils who are forcing gender change operations upon children. In the Canadian province of Ontario, it (Bill 89) has now become law that if a parent tries to override the gender preference of their child in favor of their biological gender, then that child can be removed from that home and placed in the custody of the government. What makes this law even more shocking is that it was voted in by a 63-23 margin. Specifically it states: “If it’s abuse, and if it’s within the definition, a child can be removed from that environment and placed into protection where the abuse stops”. This law will be used to persecute Bible believing parents so that the abomination of transgenderism can work the eternal death in hell for which Satan designed it.

Many males today expect to have their carnal needs met whether they shed any sweat for those needs or not. Their conduct mocks the charge of *Genesis 3:19* that states: “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread”. A man that will not work when he can should not be allowed to eat (*2 Thessalonians 3:10*). Most males in our churches today expect to be spiritually spoon fed from God’s table through the exclusive efforts of their pastor and/or Sunday School teacher. They ignore the spiritual parallel to *Genesis 3:19* which states: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (*2 Timothy 2:15*). If we

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are going to partake of spiritual food from God's table, we must be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. We are all called upon to be Bereans.

I am convinced that the reason we have so many effeminate men and masculine women in our American society is because the Devil has destroyed the Biblical model for the family in most American homes. Our boys are more effeminate because there is no Biblical father figure in the home. Our boys are more effeminate even in most homes with a male father figure in them because they are not made to work by the sweat of their brows. God forbid that the boys would get their hands dirty by being made to run a lawn mower, pick up a hammer, dig a hole with a shovel, split wood, or rake up a yard full of leaves. Then we have macho masculine mothers that are teaching their girls how to be men. Stay at home effeminate fathers are not Scriptural. Stay at home effeminate mothers are Scriptural.

Most of the males in our churches today are spiritually effeminate and many of those who are not effeminate demand subjection from their wives when they themselves are not in subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ or to the Word of God. The Word of God never sanctions the abuse of a woman. Note that the participle form of the word "effeminate" in the definition above identifies a man who has been degraded by being in subjection to a woman. In either the home or the church, when a man yields his scriptural role and authority to a woman, he has made that woman less of a woman than what God intended for her to be. When a man yields his scriptural role, he is sinning against his wife and against God's law. Effeminacy is wonderful gift from God when it occupies the Biblical vessel for which God intended it. That vessel is the body, soul, and spirit of a woman. Effeminacy has been turned upside down in our society. It has become *Isaiah 5:20* on Satanic steroids. *Isaiah 5:20* states: Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe be unto the Christian "misogynist", the Christian "homophobe", or the Christian "Islamophobe" who makes a stand for the Word of God. Hence, the most Godly in our society have become the vilest of creatures in our perverted and reprobate nation. These Christian pariahs have become the main staple in the diets of the Satanic piranhas, sharks, and lions seeking whom they may devour. We will promote Islam in our public schools and universities and cover up acts of Islamic terrorism, but God forbid that we would bring a Bible into a public school or mention the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will allow Islam to subvert and supercede our Constitution, American laws, American justice, and American courts with Shariah law, but God forbid that we offer a prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. To allow Shariah law in the United States is to violate the Constitutional rights of those who are subject to it. A logical, just, and honest analysis of Islam and Shariah law would lead to its being declared unconstitutional in the United States because it does not allow the free exercise of any religion but its own. Many of our churches in America promote and protect Islam in their goal of destroying Bible believing Christianity in America. One of the greatest paradoxes in American political history is the political alliance that has been formed between the "homophobic" (sarcasm fully intended) Islamists and the Satanic, leftist LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Transgender) advocates. I believe that the Biblical variety of "homophobia" is Scriptural, but that does not give us a Biblical mandate to murder and abuse sodomites and sodomitesses as is advocated by some Independent Baptists including the likes of Stephen Anderson.

When men yield their scriptural role as leaders to women, they become spiritually effeminate.

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Our churches have become characterized by the antichrist spirit of Jezebel and it is a Satanic, feminist spirit. Our churches have become spiritual Sodom and Gomorrahs because MEN will not stand for the truths of the Word of God. The Holy Ghost said: “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (*1 Corinthians 16:13*). Note that I have used the term “male” in lieu of the term “man” in most cases in this sermon/article. We have many males in our society that have sired children that they are not fathers to, much less Biblical fathers. We have many males in our society that have married women that they are not husbands to, much less Biblical husbands. Thank God that he qualifies men and women to fulfill his desire to have Godly homes!

Men, most Independent Baptists do not like this, but if you have sex with a woman you are married to her. Your present marital state does not change that one bit. It does not matter whether you have a legal document. Speaking from a purely Biblical perspective, “premarital” is a misnomer because any sex between a man and a woman establishes a marital relationship. Most Independent Baptists do not view fornication with the seriousness that God does. The big problem with fornication is that it establishes a marital relationship that is dead set against establishing a lifelong husband and wife relationship. *First Corinthians 6:16* states the following:

¹⁶ What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. *1 Corinthians 6:16*

That passage of Scripture is partially quoted from Genesis 2:24 and appears a total of six times in our King James Bibles. Literally interpreted, in context, you cannot get around it. This passage teaches that if you fornicate with a harlot you are married to her. Fornication IS the context. That messes with some people’s theology. I realize that there are some potential issues with what I have stated here. We believe that the major reason that most Independent Baptists take issue with what we have stated here is because of its potential connection to the “husband of one wife” doctrine. Simply stated, if any man has had a sexual relationship with more than one woman that means he has at least two wives whether before or after his “legal” marriage sealed with a piece of state sanctioned paper. If he has more than one wife (husband of one wife), by his own definition, he is permanently disqualified from serving in the ministry. That is why we kick a divorced man out of the ministry and leave a whoremongering adulterer and fornicator in the pulpit. Believe me, examples abound.

I may as well touch on one of the other great spiritual taboos of modern day Christianity. There is no Scriptural justification for a woman who has children to work outside the home when there is a father in the home. The Holy Ghost said in *Titus 2:3-5*:

³The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; ⁴That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. *Titus 2:3-5*

I have seen Independent Baptist pastors with young children in their home who have put their wives

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to work in secular jobs outside the home! How about an Independent Baptist pastor that is a stay at home father? Folks, that is going to hinder that pastor's ministry. God will not bless it. I have been saved since August 21, 1992 and have very rarely heard any teaching or preaching on the need for mothers with children to be "keepers at home". It has been so long ago that I cannot tell you when or who preached on it. The Bible is clear. When young women with children work outside the home, the Word of God is being BLASPHEMED. If you are a husband or father, what that also means is that you are making them less of a mother and less of a woman than what God intended. If you are a father that allows this to happen, then you are committing blasphemy against God. Wow! That's strong! That is one "tough" piece of meat for today's effeminate Christianity to chew on (That is why God put Hebrews 5:12-14 in the Bible). I can just hear it now. That's just your interpretation. That Scripture is not for this time. We cannot make it without two incomes. You are a male, chauvinistic, misogynistic, neanderthal fundamentalist. To which we reply: "It is written" and we believe that the Scriptures are timeless. Shoot the messenger and deny the book if you want to, but God will still hold you accountable. There is no justification for a woman with children to be working outside the home to the neglect of her children even if it is called a ministry. One of the most common areas in which this is abused today is in the unscriptural practice of travelling singing groups. God has not called a woman to travel and "minister in music" outside the home in neglect of her children. For that matter, neither has God called a man to travel and minister in music if it pulls him out of his local church on the days that his church has set aside for assembly. Singing and music is not a ministry that God has commissioned to be sent forth as a ministry of the New Testament church. God did not call travelling singers to minister outside their local churches to the exclusion of ministering inside the churches that they are members of.

Most preachers today will not preach against Calvinism even though it is eating up our churches. Most preachers today will not preach against abortion, sodomy, transgenderism, and pornography because of the politics and sin in their congregations. Most congregations are repulsed by the few pastors that are preaching and teaching against sodomy, transgenderism, pornography, legal and illegal drug abuse, and alcohol consumption. Most of them will go home from church and consume at least five to eight hours a day viewing devil possessed actors that are glorifying those very things we just spoke of. I call the television Satan's one-eyed sewer. There is not one preacher in ten in American pulpits that will preach against sin in general much less the specifics I just called out. It is no wonder that our Baptist churches are dying in their wickedness and apostasy. There are many things and many people that preachers today will not preach against because they are afraid of losing their 501C3 tax exempt status. Sadly, we have come to a time in American churches where God knows most men today for what they will NOT preach on. The prophet Elijah could come to the average preacher's meeting today and legitimately state:

How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. *1 Kings 18:21*

There is not a penny's worth difference between the prophets of Baal and today's average preacher. With very few exceptions, there is no sure word of prophecy in the land. Most preachers today are scared to death of their congregations. Any preacher that claims he has been called to

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preach would do well to heed the instructions of God to the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel and to Pastor Timothy. Turn in your Bible to Jeremiah chapter 1 where we read:

⁶ Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. ⁷ But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. ⁸ Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. ⁹ Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. ¹⁰ See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. *Jeremiah 1:6-10*

¹⁷ Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. ¹⁸ For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. ¹⁹ And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee. *Jeremiah 1:17-19*

Now turn in your Bibles to *Ezekiel chapter 3* where it states:

¹ Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. ² So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. ³ And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. ⁴ And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. ⁵ For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel; ⁶ Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. ⁷ But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted. ⁸ Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. ⁹ As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. ¹⁰ Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. ¹¹ And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear. ¹² Then the spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, saying, Blessed be the glory of the LORD from his place. *Ezekiel 3:1-12*

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The Holy Ghost stated the following in 2 Timothy chapters 2 and 4:

³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. *2 Timothy 2:3-4*

¹ I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. *2 Timothy 2:3-4*

The message from these passages to those who have been called to the ministry is that they must openly and boldly declare the Word of God regardless of the people's reaction and opposition to it. God even warns them that there will be a fight. We are told to earnestly contend for the faith. That means there will be contention.

God seeks men of God to fill the spiritual gaps when false prophets, false teachers, and compromising pastors and preachers fill our pulpits with men whose god is their bellies.

Ezekiel 13:1-9

¹ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ² Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD; ³ Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! ⁴ O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. ⁵ Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. ⁶ They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. ⁷ Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken? ⁸ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD. ⁹ And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

Isaiah 8:19-20

¹⁹ And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

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²⁹ The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. ³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. ³¹ Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.
Ezekiel 22:29-31

The guilt lies not just with the false prophets, false teachers, and compromising pastors and preachers who occupy our pulpits, but also with the men in the pews. One of the saddest commentaries in the Word of God on the people of God is recorded in *Isaiah 30:8-11* which reads:

⁸ Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: ⁹ That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: ¹⁰ Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: ¹¹ Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. *Isaiah 30:8-11*

The New Testament parallel to this passage is *2 Timothy 4:3-4* where it is written:

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. *2 Timothy 4:3-4*

Many of the people just described have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (*2 Timothy 3:5*). They claim to be the people of God, but they act like children of the Devil. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit (*Jude 19*). Folks, we are to separate from them. We are not to fellowship with heretics, false teachers, and Christians who refuse to repent of their sin or false doctrine. If you have a pastor or preacher in your church that boldly proclaims the Word of God and goes to battle for your church under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, you need to give him all the support that he is scripturally entitled to. God says in *Exodus 17:11-13*:

¹¹ And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. ¹² But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. ¹³ And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. *Exodus 17:11-13*

Are the men in your church standing WITH the man of God? God does not want us to stand BEHIND the man of God. God has his back. If we are not at the forefront of the battle with the

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pastor, fighting with him side by side, we will not be able to reach his arms to help him lift them up when he drops them. Most churches today are losing the battle because their MEN are not there to lift up the arms of the pastor when he just cannot endure in his own strength anymore. Most of the pastors in our Independent Baptist churches are wounded and worn out because they are in the battle by themselves. Will you be the man who steps up to hold up the arms of the man of God? The highest calling in our land is not to the office of President. The highest calling in our land is to the office of the man of God because it is a call from God. That is true regardless of what role that office takes on. Preaching and teaching the Word of God is not just something you do. It is a passion from God. Paul said in *1 Corinthians 9:16*:

¹⁶For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! *1 Corinthians 9:16*

1 Corinthians 9:16 explains exactly why so many young men (and older men too) in our congregations are miserable if they have been called to preach and teach and either refuse to accept the call or are not making any preparations to answer the call. Woe has come unto them because they preach not the gospel. I am convinced that some young men in our congregations have been called to preach, but they are running from the call. They will never have total peace with God until they yield to the call. Preaching and teaching is both a call and a blessing. It is not just something that you do every once in a while. There is nothing like the power of God that comes upon preaching when you know that God the Holy Ghost is moving in it. That is when you know that it is pleasing unto God. That is when you have to be very sensitive to the Holy Ghost. I have heard Brother Sammy Allen say many times that the Holy Ghost is the most sensitive person in a congregation. Good preaching seeks to bring glory unto God by exalting the Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

I am also convinced that many young men who announce a call to preach have never been called because I never see a touch of God on their lives. I never see them making any preparations or asking what they need to do to prepare. Then we have those “Biblical” intellectuals who have not been called, but seek after the praise of men. If you have not been called to preach, you may get up and say some words, but they will not go forth under the anointing of God the Holy Ghost. Paul said this in *1 Corinthians 2:4*:

1 Corinthians 2:4

⁴And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: *1 Corinthians 9:16*

Most of these intellectuals are unsaved, natural men that have a head knowledge of the Scriptures that has not been enlightened by the Spirit of God. They preach in the wisdom of men. That is one of the points of *1 Corinthians* chapter 2. They cannot preach the Word of God in demonstration of the Spirit and of power because they do not have the mind of Christ (verse 16). Unsaved, religious intellectuals are the reason we have so much Bible correcting going on in our Baptist pulpits. You are wicked and ungodly if you will stand in front of a class or a congregation and correct the Word of God. I have a problem with any man who stands behind a pulpit or lectern

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and corrects the King James Bible with the Greek or Hebrew text and the non-existent originals. I also have a serious problem with any man who is constantly appealing to the Greek and Hebrew in his preaching and teaching. After a while it becomes very distracting and makes us believe that that preacher does not have full confidence in the King James Bible. We are not saying do not use the Greek and Hebrew text at all, but use it sparingly because after all you are preaching and teaching to English speaking peoples who have a perfect King James Bible. They do not speak Greek and you do not speak Greek, but you can read an apostate Strong's Concordance. I recently heard a young man stand in a pulpit and say that the word "servant" in *Romans 1:1* actually meant "slave". That is a wily attempt to correct the King James Bible. I took a look at 13 different English *perversions* and that Greek word upon which the English word "servant" is based is mistranslated as "slave" and average of 73 times in those 13 English *perversions*. There is a huge difference in both the literal and connotative meanings of the words "servant" and "slave". Servants do what they do out of a willing heart. Slaves do what they do because they are forced, or compelled, to. I can see where a Calvinist would love the word "slave" because anyone who is saved under Calvinism is saved through irresistible grace and unconditional election in spite of their will. Their will is in bondage to unconditional election and irresistible grace. Now, if you are a Calvinist, a Bible corrector, or a Muslim you can be a slave of your God/god. In Islam, every person on the face of the earth is a slave of the Satanic Allah. Only Bible believing Christians are referred to as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ in the King James Bible. All unsaved people are said to have the spirit of bondage and are under the condemnation of the law. They are slaves to their father the Devil.

I watch young men real closely who say they have been called to preach because I have a burden to teach them the Word of God. If they are willing to put in the time to study and attend classes, I will put in the time to teach them. I take God's charge to Timothy very seriously. That charge states in *2 Timothy 2:1-4*:

¹ Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. ³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. *2 Timothy 2:1-4*

Some of the most unhappy young men that I have seen are those who have announced a call to preach, but are making no preparation to preach. I see young men that say they have been called to preach take secular jobs that pull them out of church. They have been called to preach, but they have not been "called" to faithful church attendance. They have been called to preach, but they have not been "called" to study. If you say that you have been called to preach, then you are going to have to make study and meditation upon the Word of God a priority in your life. *2 Timothy 2:15* says:

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. *2 Timothy 2:15*

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If you are going to be an effective Bible teacher and preacher, you need to make *Psalms 119* one of your life's chapters and *2 Timothy 2:15* one of your life's verses. *1 Corinthians 7:20* says: "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called". That means they are to live in that which God has called them to. If God has called you, he will not change his mind "for the gifts and calling of God are without repentance". Furthermore, God expects faithfulness from those He calls into the ministry and that is stated in *1 Corinthians 4:1-2* as follows:

¹ Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Paul also warns Timothy not to "entangle himself with the affairs of this life" because it will distract him from the war that is before him. The charge to all preachers, young and old, is:

¹ I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
2 Timothy 4:1-2

We are to preach the Word of God when it is popular and we are to preach it when it is unpopular. It will make some glad and it will make some mad. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ". If you have been called to preach, you must preach ALL the counsel of God. If you are not going to preach on hell fire and damnation, and the law of God, then do not expect any genuine fruit from your preaching that results in life changing conversions and the sanctification of the saved folk in your congregation. "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (*Galatians 3:24*). We do not preach the law anymore because we are afraid it might offend the rebels and the unsaved effeminate men and unsaved masculine women we have sitting in our pews. We need to reach the point where we are a whole lot more worried about someone going to hell than we are about them being offended. If there are some things you will not preach on because you are afraid of offending someone, then you would be better off not to even preach at all. If you are not going to preach the necessity of repentance in salvation and daily Christian living, do not preach at all because if you do, you are going to build a congregation of unsaved rebels and carnal saved folk. Some of the most wicked people in America are unsaved Independent Baptists who have had their exteriors scrubbed down good and then covered over with the untempered mortar of repentanceless salvation.

If you are going to be a pastor, you are going to have to preach on sin. When you preach on sin, you are going to have to soldier up because you are going to make the Devil, unsaved church members, and carnal saved folk mad. Then you will understand why Paul asked: "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?". Preaching on sin in generalities lacks the power of the Holy Ghost. We must identify specific sins in our preaching and teaching. If we do not, it is like spanking a child for doing wrong and never telling them what the specific wrong is that they are being spanked for. It is kind of like you beating the living daylights out of someone until they repent

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of whatever it is that they have done wrong... I do not know what you have done, but I know you have done something wrong and I am going to beat you up for all the times I did not catch you.

If you have been called to the ministry, then you have been called for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). You have not been called that glory might redound to you regardless of what ministry God has called you to. It is men who are seeking titles and the applause and praise of men like themselves who have corrupted our Baptist pulpits and our Baptist churches. These same men have blacked the eyes of the Bride of Christ with their sin and abominable glory seeking. God forbid. I repeat, God forbid that we should receive any glory or any applause for anything that we do for the Lord Jesus Christ. What follows is a quote from pages 186-188 of the book **“The Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, And ‘Husband Of One Wife’ Controversy”**. It addresses the issue of pride and glory seeking by many of the leaders in our churches.

BEGIN QUOTE

The biggest problem in the issue before us is pride. We are not going to give up on what we have been taught because we would have to admit we are wrong. All the wimpy men followers would have to tuck their tails under and run from their doctrinal dictators and taskmasters like scalded dogs. God forbid they should study this issue through for themselves! We have also seen pastors that not only reject counsel, but also openly rebuke counsel. **A man that will not take counsel is a fool that is right in his own eyes (Proverbs 12:15)**. Most men openly reject the whole counsel of God on the issue before us choosing instead to take the counsel of great men. The fear of men bringeth a snare. Great men are not always wise. In many of our Independent Baptist churches, we have become promoters of men instead of promoters of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many Independent Baptist pastors have taken a peacock’s stroll down lover’s lane walking hand-in-hand with themselves. We have put unholy and wicked Doctors into our pulpits who are into self exaltation and consider themselves to be above rebuke and all the while forgetting the warning and counsel of Job and Jeremiah:

21 Let me not, I pray you, accept any man’s person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. 22 For I know not to give flattering titles; *in so doing* my maker would soon take me away. *Job 32:21-22*

23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD. *Jeremiah 9:23-24*

What that tells us is that we are to neither give flattering titles or receive flattering titles. To do either

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is SIN. Many of these doctors have become the priest class in our Baptist churches who seek the highest seats and honours in the synagogues. A case in point is the following advertisement quoted verbatim from the back page of the August 31, 2012 edition of that Independent Baptist bastion of humility, the “Sword Of The Lord”:

*There is not a man alive who has personally won more souls to Christ than **DOCTOR** Bob Gray, Sr. He has been in the ministry for 39 years and daily wins souls. Last year he personally led 404 souls to Christ, with 107 of those following the Lord in baptism. He has been used of God to see 1,116,887 souls come to Christ while pastoring the Longview Baptist Temple of Longview, Texas. It grew from a low of 159 to averaging 2,046 the last year he was pastor, with high days over 10,000. They ran 40 bus routes and had a large Sunday School program. He led the church to give \$9,328,835.69 to missions. I want you to come hear this man of God who can help you.*

DOCTOR Russell Anderson

Wow, what vainglory! There is nothing like a vain attempt to steal the glory from God! That is enough to make us want to puke! Bob Gray has received his reward in the praise of men. We would be ashamed to have such unadulterated worship published concerning us. Not only would we be ashamed, we would not allow it. Shame on the “Sword Of The Lord”. We cannot believe that the “conservative, fundamentalist” “Sword Of The Lord” would publish such vainglory! Uh, uh, uh we retract that statement. A search of the August 2012 issue of “The Sword” reveals that Independent Baptists are very fond of the title DOCTOR. It appears no less than 105 times in the 24 pages of “The Sword”. Just in case you have forgotten the sinner’s prayer they also include it with a copy of a decision form that may put your converts on the road to confirmation. There is also an equally effusive trip down glory road in the endorsement given to “Pastor” Terrell Hopkins on the back page. This whole paper reeks of the filthiness of the flesh and the vileness of self-esteem and self-exaltation. There is definitely no glory left there for the Lord Jesus Christ. Maybe they need to rename their newspaper “The Independent Baptist Glory Corner”. It is definitely not the sword of the Lord because in its pages man is high and lifted up. **God forbid that we should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
END QUOTE

Its hard for us Independent Baptists to be humble when we are so great in our own eyes. It is the vainglory like that which I just quoted that is a stench in the nostrils of God! Because we have not dealt with it after a Godly fashion, the whole Independent Baptist movement has been leavened by the ungodly conduct of these glory hounds. Do you want Scriptural proof of that?? God said in *1 Corinthians 5:6-7*:

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⁶ Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? ⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: *1 Corinthians 5:6-7*

The den of iniquity that promoted this braggadocios conduct also perverted the gospel and tolerated wicked sexual conduct in its institutions. It is going to have to be put under the fire of the Word of God to stop the leavening action. The events I just described took place about over 10 years ago, but the fruits of it are still with us folks and that fruit is rotten to its very core. False professions have become the leprosy of Bible believing churches in America.

There is a Scriptural way to bring lost sinners into confrontation with their sin and unbelief. Their ears must first be circumcised with the law of God and the Word of God. Their field must be plowed, sowed, and watered with the Word of God before the harvest can take place. We have to many Christians today who are trying to pull green fruit. In fact many of them are pulling the blossoms before they can even set fruit. Soul winning is a work and not a one shot deal. Soul winning is the work of the Holy Ghost: not a formula. Religious political correctness, doctrinal compromise, the fear of men, the toleration of sin in the camp, psychology, and bragging rights have all but destroyed Scriptural presentations of the gospel. That is a mouth full.

Religious political correctness says you cannot say that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. Religious political correctness says you cannot tell lost sinners about hell because that would violate their safe space. Our pulpits and pews are full of religious snowflakes that are offended at the truth of the Word of God. Folks, snowflakes melt real fast when exposed to the fires of hell.

Doctrinal compromise says that the law of God and repentance are not necessary when dealing with someone about their salvation. Doctrinal compromise says that repentance is a work of man's flesh. The Bible says that repentance is both a gift and a work of the Holy Ghost.

The fear of men is the shell that contains the seeds of religious political correctness and doctrinal compromise. Proverbs 29:25 says: "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe". The snare that is before us is that of "Easy Believism"; perhaps better called "Easy Prayerism" because it is easy to believe if you do not resist the Holy Ghost. There is a fear of dealing with someone about their salvation and hence the desire to get it over with as soon as possible. That is one reason why most presentations of the gospel are so shallow. There is a battle that takes place between the Holy Ghost and the Devil in the gap between unbelief and salvation and most Christians are ill prepared to join it. That battle is not for the faint of heart. You have to set your fears aside and break out the sword that the Holy Ghost has given all the soldiers in his army and that sword is the Bible. The key to setting aside your fears is the second half of Proverbs 29:25 and that is, put your trust in the LORD for the battle is his.

One of the most damnable heresies in apostate Christianity is the psychological salesmanship and marketing techniques that are used to manipulate a lost sinner into praying a soul damning sinner's prayer. In most cases, these false converts have been made two-fold more a child of hell.

Many Christians today are so full of themselves and sin that they have grieved the soul winning Holy Ghost that is in them. They have no power and the witness of the Spirit has been buried deep in their sin. Christian, how do we know you believe in hell if you do not live like it? Most so-called soul

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winner's prayer. They are driven by a need to heap to themselves the praise of men.

If it were not for the bragging rights, how many would even attempt to win souls in today's selfie generation? Look at me. I won 15 souls today. When are we going to stop trying to steal the glory from God? For many years, I read missionary prayer letters some of which were very edifying and some that were very heart breaking. I have also read many missionary prayer letters that were nothing more than glory rags that cited ridiculously high "soul winning" statistics month after month that I knew were mostly the products of "Easy Believism". In my role as church treasurer, I went to one pastor and recommended that he drop all missionaries from one particular mission board because what I seen was so disturbing. It would shock you how prevalent this practice is in the Independent Baptist movement. I refer you back to the braggadocios tripe from the "Sword Of The Lord" that we quoted on pages 11 and 12 of this document. *Philippians 3:18-19* describes these self-serving egotistical glory hounds:

¹⁸ (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)
Philippians 3:18-19

It is shameful what these men have done. Some humble men are going to have to stand up in the meekness of the Spirit of God and insist that the numbers games be shut down. If we do not stand up, we become partakers in their evil deeds. The Hyles-Anderson leadership model and the heretical Hyles-Anderson repentanceless soul winning model has corrupted the seed of the gospel and has filled our churches with spiritual bastards that are illegitimate children because they have not been born again. Does that shock you? Does that offend you? I was quite reluctant to make the statement that I just made, but God impressed upon me the gravity of the consequences of professions of salvation without evidence of repentance. What I have just said should not offend you because it is plainly stated to be so in *Hebrews 12*. That is a serious thing folks. *Hebrews 12:6-8* says:

⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. ⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. *Hebrews 12:6-8*

I did not say it. God said it. It is the Holy Ghost making a spiritual application of the natural principle given in *Deuteronomy 23:2*. We have so much wickedness in our congregations, but I do not see very many people getting chastised. You know what that means! A known unbeliever cannot Scripturally be a member of a Bible believing church. They should be removed from church rolls. Most churches today will not remove an unrepentant member from their rolls. They will not use church discipline procedures commanded in the Bible for that purpose. That is especially true when the sinning member happens to be a high profile "man of God ?!?".

Much of what we have been talking about is rooted in a wicked spirit of pride and praise of men. It

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results, in glorying in the accomplishments of men, in exaltation of “great men of God” and braggadocios soul winning claims. There is much Scripture dealing with the issue of pride and man worship. There is much rebuke of glorying in men’s accomplishments in the Bible. Take a look at *1 Corinthians 1:27-31*, *1 Corinthians 3:20-21*, *2 Corinthians 10:17-18*, and *Jeremiah 9:23-24* where we see:

²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence. ³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: ³¹ That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. *1 Corinthians 1:27-31*

²⁰ And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. ²¹ Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; *1 Corinthians 3:20-21*

¹⁷ But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. ¹⁸ For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth. *2 Corinthians 10:17-18*

²³ Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: ²⁴ But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD. *Jeremiah 9:23-24*

What of the huge portraits and sculptures of Jack Hyles that were put in place at First Baptist Hammond/Hyles-Anderson? That is pure idolatry. Consider God’s admonition in *Acts 17:29*:

²⁹ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device. *Acts 17:29*

Since God said not to make any images of him, who are we to think it is okay to set up a sculpture at a church in honour of a mere man? How does that line up with *Exodus 20:4* where we read:

⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: *Exodus 20:4*

A sculpture is nothing less than a graven image. Jack Hyles was made into an Independent Baptist Pope and idol.

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There are a number of sins associated with braggadocios soul winning claims. One cannot help but think of the sin of David in numbering the children of Israel in 1 Chronicles 21 that resulted in the death of seventy thousand men. What is the difference between what David done and what Christians do when they brag about how many souls they “won”? Bragging about soul winning statistics is all about how much more one man has done than another. Paul said the following to the church at Corinth:

¹² For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. *2 Corinthians 10:12*

Paul says that we are not wise in comparing and measuring ourselves by ourselves. Then we have the issue of taking credit for that which the Holy Ghost has done. Paul said in *1 Corinthians 3:6*: “I have planted, Apollos watered; **but God gave the increase**”. From the context of *1 Corinthians 3*, it is obvious that there was some envying and contention over soul winning numbers in the church at Corinth. Paul in rebuking their carnality over soul winning “statistics” had to remind them that the fruit was God’s. After all, it is only God who can know without error who is truly saved.

Much of what we have been dealing with in the last few minutes was a hallmark of the ministry of Jack Hyles at First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana and Hyles-Anderson College. For many in the Independent Baptist movement, calling out the sin and heresy of Jack Hyles is equivalent to the Roman Catholics calling out the sin and heresy of the Pope. The ghost of Jack Hyles still “haunts” the Independent Baptist movement. Most men in the ministry today will not name names publicly. That is not Scriptural. When “great men of God” commit sin and practice heresy publicly and will not repent of it, they need to be rebuked publicly. There are numerous cases in the Bible where religious and political leaders were rebuked by the men of God. A list of those men of God who did so would include: Moses, Nathan, Jehu, Micaiah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, John the Baptist, Paul, and the apostle John. Paul publicly rebuked the apostle Peter. When we will not deal with the sin of “great men of God”, we put them in the position of being God.

The Hyles-Anderson leadership model results in that very thing. That model is based upon an unscriptural interpretation of the very Biblical phrase “touch not God’s anointed”. Their interpretation violates the context in the worse sort of way. For proof of that go read and study the whole context of *1 Chronicles 16* and *Psalms 105*. The anointed are God’s people: not some abusive pastor. The application of the unscriptural Hyles-Anderson leadership model has led to much abuse of God’s anointed people. Demanding blind loyalty to an unholy and heretical leader is not Scriptural. It is occultic. When we put a “man of God” into a position where his authority and conduct cannot be questioned we grant him absolute power and it has been well said that “absolute power corrupts absolutely”. The best of men are still but men. We do not care how great you get in the eyes of men, you are still accountable to God and to the Word of God for how you treat your flock and your personal conduct. To many of us men in the Independent Baptist movement have allowed sinful, unscriptural dictators to usurp the authority of God and his Word. I am not impugning pastoral authority. We must submit to our pastors in a scriptural manner with a Godly attitude.

We must be very careful when dealing with elders in our churches. Elders are those who are old by

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reason of age or those that are in positions of leadership. There are Scriptural instructions for both. The first is in *1 Timothy 5:1-2*:

¹ Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

² The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. *1 Timothy 5:1-2*

We are to respect those that are older than we are. They are due our respect, our help, and our “yes sirs” and “yes ma’ams”. One of the most ungodly things in our society is those young teens and young adults that talk back to and rebuke their parents. There is nothing more detestable than a young man who will physically and verbally abuse their mothers and grandmothers.

The second group of elders is discussed in *1 Timothy 5:17-20* where it is written:

¹⁷ Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸ For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. ¹⁹ Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. *1 Timothy 5:17-20*

It is obvious from the context that the phrase “double honour” applies to the financial support that God commands for those in the ministry. These elders are ruling elders. We Baptists call them pastors. The pastors/elders that rule well are entitled to double financial support. The phrase “double honour” does not mean that the pastor is to be exalted above anyone else in the congregation. If a church that is financially able will not financially support its pastor, they are sinning against God. Sinning pastoral dictators and those who push the Hyles-Anderson leadership model have taken *1 Timothy 5:20* out of their Bibles. That verse says that sinning elders/pastors are to be publicly rebuked before all, that others also may fear. Do you actually think that today’s apostate churches are going to do that when they will not even deal with the unbridled sin of the men and women in their pews. It takes truly spiritual men to deal with these issues. The Holy Ghost said in *Galatians 6:1*:

¹ Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. *Galatians 6:1*

It takes spiritual backbone and spiritual discernment to deal with these issues. What we have substituted for spiritual backbone and spiritual discernment in our Independent Baptist churches is spiritual pride. We have too many whited sepulchres “Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou”. God’s verdict upon them is: “These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day” (*Isaiah 65:5*).

Men, if you are going to be godly leaders in your church and in your home you are going to have to put sin out of your personal life and out of your home. That which you tolerate in your personal life

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and in your home will find its way into your church. You should be unified with your wife in dealing with sin and discipline issues in the home. The line of authority in the home is God, husband, wife, with the children being followers. Do not allow your children to play you against your wife and vice versa.

One thing that amazes me is the Christian parents who will tolerate the most ungodly conduct out of their own children and even defend them in their sin. I am not talking about those Christian parents who were saved after their children were grown even though there is much application for them in what I am saying. What I am talking about is Christian parents who raised their children in a Christian home and yet once those children become adults, the parents will allow those children to participate in what is condemned as sin by the Word of God. Mothers are usually the greater offender in this area even though fathers are guilty of it many times. A man has abdicated, or given up, his God given responsibility to put sin out of his home if he yields to a wife's insistence that an adult or minor child's sin be tolerated in his home. To shirk this responsibility is sin. Sin should never be tolerated by a Christian man in his own home. It is a bad testimony and the yielding of the sanctity of the home to Satan. When you yield to Satan in your home, then he becomes the master of your home. If you say that you are a Christian and tolerate sin in your home, then you are guilty of hypocrisy. Known sin in the home will quench the work of the Holy Ghost in lost family members and will create division in the home. Known sin will limit what the Holy Ghost could do with you both inside and outside your home. Known sin will grieve the Holy Ghost which will lead to discontent, strife, and sometimes even hatred. IN SHORT, TO TOLERATE SIN IS SIN ITSELF. If you tolerate sin in your home then you become a partaker of that sin. Paul told Timothy in *1 Timothy 5:22*: "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure". The Holy Ghost abides in purity. Soul winning is an issue of purity. The apostle John also said that if you receive sin into your house, then you become a partaker in that sin. *2 John 6-11* says:

⁶And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. ⁷For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. ⁸Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. ⁹Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: ¹¹For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. *2 John 6-11*

Notice the use of the phrases "commandments", "transgresseth", "doctrine of Christ", and evil deeds. What the Holy Ghost is saying through John is that if you invite into your house those that walk not after the commandments or that transgress and abide not in the doctrine of Christ then you become a partaker in their evil deeds. Allowing those transgressors into your home is like inviting Satan, or an antichrist into your home. To allow such like into your home is to bed down with the Devil. Note also that those who abide in sinful behaviour "hath not God". In plainer words, they are NOT SAVED. *Ephesians 5:7* says: "Be not ye therefore partakers with them". We are to have no

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fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them (*Ephesians 5:11*). These verses are very powerful especially if you consider that they occur in the longest passage in the New Testament dealing with relationships and holiness in the church, in our lives individually, and in our family life. Read it for yourself in Ephesians 4 and 5 where we find 65 verses. Paul is saying the very same thing John is in *2 John* except he has added quite a few more details. You cannot make exceptions for your family members. I am not saying that you should permanently set aside your family members. In most cases that is not necessary. What I am saying is, if you claim to be a man of God then you must deal with sin in your home and make it clear that sin will not be tolerated. You should not allow your children to rest in the delusion that they are saved if they continue in open sin such as drug and alcohol use, fornication, adultery, sodomy, pedophilia, and pornography because if the rapture takes place and your children have been under conviction of the Holy Ghost they are without hope in the tribulation. To accept such behaviour is to accept the very real possibility that your children are on their way to hell if you do not make a conviction bringing stand based on the holiness of God. Here is the warning from the word of God:

⁶ Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; ⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: *2 Thessalonians 1:6-8*

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. *2 Thessalonians 2:7-12*

As a parent, or a soul winner, you cannot trust somebody else's profession of salvation. Only they know for sure that they are saved. The only thing that you can possibly believe is the fruit of repentance in their lives and even that can be deceptive. It is especially true today that the proof of salvation is in the walk and not in the talk. If you are a parent that has a child in open sin, it is best to assume that they are lost and prepare a course of action based upon that assumption. Do not worry about offending them. If they are lost, is it better to offend them than to let them die in their sin and go to hell. If they are saved and they get offended, they will get over it. Most Christian parents in America who think their children, including adult children, are saved are in bad need of a reality check. Never, never get upset when a person questions whether or not one of your professing children is saved. Never, never argue with a person, especially a child, whether they are saved or use the expression "you know you are saved" when they are doubting their salvation. When you do

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either of those you are hindering either the correcting work or the convicting saving work of the Holy Ghost. Only them and the Holy Ghost know for sure that they are saved. If you enter yourself into the mix, you are guilty of usurping the ministry of God the Holy Ghost. It is God the Holy Ghost that does the drawing and convicting. It is God the Holy Ghost that does the conversion. It is God the Holy Ghost that does the regeneration, or resurrection. It is God the Holy Ghost that gives the assurance of salvation. You put yourself in the place of the Holy Ghost when you argue with someone “that they know they are saved” regardless of whether their life screams that they are on their way to hell fire and damnation. If there is no fruit, then they are not rooted in the tree of life. If you are in open sin, you cannot convince me that you are saved. If you are having constant doubts about whether you are saved do not tell me that the devil is making you doubt your salvation. The Devil would never do that if he knew you were lost.

We now turn to a recurrent charge in the Bible that is given to men. That charge is “be strong”. In your Bible, you will not find one passage of scripture that says that the prophet Daniel done anything wrong. Yet, here is God’s charge to him:

¹⁸ Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, ¹⁹ And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me. *Daniel 10:18-19*

Nine times the phrase “be strong and of good courage” is used in our Bibles. Twice it was spoken to the people of Israel. Twice it was spoken to Solomon by David. Five times it was spoken to Joshua. We see this phrase in *Deuteronomy 31:6, Deuteronomy 31:7, Deuteronomy 31:22-23, Joshua 1:6, Joshua 1:9, Joshua 1:18, Joshua 10:25, 1 Chronicles 22:13, 1 Chronicles 28:20. Deuteronomy 31:22-23* says:

²² Moses therefore wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Israel. ²³ And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee. *Deuteronomy 31:22-23*

This charge was given to all of Israel in Deuteronomy chapter 31 including the religious leaders. Moses repeated this phrase in his public charge to the government leader, Joshua, in *Deuteronomy 31*. The following charge was given when the second temple was being built:

⁴ Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: *Haggai 2:4*

Note once again the charge to “be strong” is given to the government leader, the religious leader, and the people. A parallel concept to being strong is the Old Testament admonishment “fear thou not, and be not dismayed” that appears at least nine times in the Old Testament. So, we see that one of

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the major charges to men of God in the Old Testament was to be strong and fear not. As we move into the New Testament, note the following:

⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. *2 Timothy 1:7*

Based upon *2 Timothy 1:7*, if you find yourself bound by a spirit of fear that saps your spiritual strength, you can be sure that it is not of God. God has given us a spirit of a sound mind that we might have the tools to deal with the confusion that Satan tries to plant in our midst. God is not the author of confusion. We will close this discussion with *Ephesians 6:10-18*, *2 Corinthians 10:3-5*, *Zechariah 4:6*, *2 Timothy 2:1-3*, and *1 Corinthians 16:13* where we read:

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; *Ephesians 6:10-18*

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; *2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

If you will look at both passages of Scripture just quoted you will notice that there is not a single physical weapon in the arsenal and yet they are capable of pulling down Satan's strongholds. There is but one offensive weapon in the arsenal and that is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Our strength is to be in the Lord and exercised in the power of his might. Zechariah said:

⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. *Zechariah 4:6*

If we are to accomplish anything worthwhile for the Lord Jesus Christ, we will have to do it by the

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spirit of the Lord. Paul, in the closing months of his life, knowing the battle that was to come, warned Timothy:

¹ Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. ³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. *2 Timothy 2:1-3*

We close this study out with the words of the hymn “Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus” by George Duffield, Junior:

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The solemn watchword hear;
If while ye sleep He suffers,
Away with shame and fear;
Where'er ye meet with evil,
Within you or without,
Charge for the God of battles,
And put the foe to rout.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict,
In this His glorious day.
Ye that are brave now serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger,
And strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own.

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Put on the Gospel armor,
Each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger,
Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Each soldier to his post,
Close up the broken column,
And shout through all the host:
Make good the loss so heavy,
In those that still remain,
And prove to all around you
That death itself is gain.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle,
The next the victor's song.
To him who overcometh
A crown of life shall be;
They with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally.

1 Corinthians 16:13

¹³ Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.