

*"And now I commend you to God
and to the word of His grace, which
is able to build you up and to give
you the inheritance among all those
who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)*

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LET THE CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH **THE MARKS OF A MATURE CHURCH**

I. INTRODUCTION

"What is the measure of maturity in the church?"

II. TEXT: [1 Corinthians 16:13-14](#)

III. EXPLANATION

These are "a series of generalized admonitions that could fit any of Paul's letters; at the same time, however, some of them in particular seem to reflect the Corinthian situation."¹

My paraphrase of the verses, reflecting the tense, could read this way: ***"keep on being alert, standing firm in the faith, show yourself to be a grown up, courageous and loving in all that you do."***

IV. THE MARKS OF A MATURE CHURCH

1. CONTINUING TO BE ALERT

In this letter a clue to Paul's wake-up call are the words: "don't you know?"
E.g., [1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:3,9,15,24](#).

Cf: [1 Corinthians 10:23-24](#))

¹ Fee, G. D. (2014). *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. (N. B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, G. D. Fee, & J. B. Green, Eds.) (Revised Edition, p. 914). Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

2. KEEP STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH

Notice the definite article: stand firm in THE faith. Cf: [Jude 3](#)

3. SHOW YOURSELVES TO BE GROWN UP

The third and fourth exhortations are closely related so I take them together. Anthony Thiselton¹ argues that the word does not stand in contrast to femininity but in fact emphasizes qualities like maturity and courage, in contrast to childishness.

Childishness plagued this Church in Corinth: Cf: [1 Corinthians 3:1; 13:10–11; 14:20](#)

Paul's call to "man up" is really a call to that maturity that seeks the good of others above self.

4. LOVING IN ALL YOU DO

With only so-called love and not truthful strength of character they become mush.

V. APPLICATION

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¹ Thiselton, Anthony C., The First Epistle to the Corinthians: A commentary on the Greek text, The New International Greek Testament Commentary, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI, 2000, Page 1336