

# STAND FIRM

WITHSTANDING THE ASSAULT ON THE TRUTH



Part 9

## “Living as Christian Men & Women”

March 26, 2023

### Introduction

While men and women have a common identity as God’s image-bearers, they have complimentary embodiment as male and female. Together, men and women carry out original commission entrusted to us by God (Gen. 1:27-28a) to be multiply on the earth and have dominion. Though our first parents fell into sin and we ourselves now inhabit a fallen world, we have hope because of the salvation accomplished by Christ which is applied to men and women who believe in Him.

**Main Point:** We are called to stand firm on the truth that God has called us live lives of \_\_\_\_\_ as we serve Him in the world as Christian men and women.

## Who Are Christian Men & Women?

### Shared Identity & Commission

- **Believing men and women share a common \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as those who are in Christ.**

Gal. 3:26-28—<sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ...

⇒ The imagery used here pictures the immersion of \_\_\_\_\_ and being clothed in a new \_\_\_\_\_.

⇒ Because Christians of all ethnicities, social statuses, and genders share a common identity in Christ, they have the same \_\_\_\_\_ to and \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

“This verse must not be pressed into meaning something that it does not say. As far as everyday life is concerned (not to mention public ministry in the church), God *does* recognize the distinction between male and female. The NT contains instructions to each; it also speaks separately to slaves and masters. But in obtaining blessing from God, these things do not matter. The great thing is to be in Christ Jesus.” —William MacDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary*

- **Believing men and women share a common \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim the gospel and make disciples.**

Matt. 28:19-20—<sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

⇒ The commission given by the Lord to our first parents was to be carried out by men and women who would together multiply image-bearers and cultivate creation. This commission, given by the Lord Jesus to His followers, would be carried out by men and women together who would multiply \_\_\_\_\_ and cultivate them through \_\_\_\_\_.

**Key Point:** Our identity in Christ is our \_\_\_\_\_ of life from which we carry out the work of God entrusted to us as Christian men and women.

### Shared Calling to Virtue & Service

Titus 2:1-6—<sup>1</sup>But as for you, *teach* what accords with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup>Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, **self-controlled**, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. <sup>3</sup>Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to *teach what is good*, <sup>4</sup>and so **train** the young women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>to be **self-controlled**, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. <sup>6</sup>Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

Key Words: (1) “teach”—λαλέω (*laleō*)—To speak or teach.

(2) “self-controlled”—σώφρων (*sōphrōn*)— (n.) to be in control of oneself; to be prudent and thoughtful.  
(v.) to instruct in virtue or behavior that shows sound judgment.

\* This was a cardinal virtue in the Greco-Roman world. During the intertestamental period, *sōphrōn* came to be associated with purity and chastity as it was seen to battle against the believer’s foes of desire and sensual lust.

- **By their example and instruction, believing men who are older are to teach those who are younger what it means to live as Christian \_\_\_\_\_.**

- **By their example and instruction, believing women who are older are to teach those who are younger what it means to live as Christian \_\_\_\_\_.**

Rom. 12:9-11—<sup>9</sup> Let *love* be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, **serve** the Lord.

**Key Words:** (1) “love”—ἀγάπη (*agapē*)— (n.) affection or benevolence

(2) “serve”—δουλεύω (*douleuō*)— (v.) to act or conduct oneself as one in total service to another

- **Christian men and women serve God by loving \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ He loves.**

**Key Point:** In our love and service towards one another, we \_\_\_\_\_ what it looks like to live as Christian men and women who are growing in the grace and knowledge of God.

### **Challenge to the Truth: Pervasive \_\_\_\_\_**

“Sex now pervades every aspect of life, from elementary education to commercials to Congress and the Supreme Court. Everywhere one looks, the erotic—sexual desire—has triumphed...The erotic has triumphed as sex has come to grip the popular imagination, but this has not been through scientific argument. It has been through other cultural media.” —Carl Trueman

1 Thess. 4:3-8—<sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from **sexual immorality**; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of **lust** like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

**Key Words:** (1) “sexual immorality”—πορνεία (*porneia*)— (n.) unlawful sexual intercourse, prostitution, unchastity, fornication

“The significance of *porneia*, in historical terms, was precisely that it gave a single name to an array of sexual [behaviors]...Asking what *porneia* means is like asking how a fumigation bomb is shaped...” —Kyle Harper

(2) “lust”—ἐπιθυμία (*epithymia*)— (n.) a desire for someth. forbidden or simply inordinate, craving, lust.

- **Believing men and women are called to the virtue of \_\_\_\_\_ both outside of and within marriage.**

“Chastity is the dignity of the body, the ornament of morality, the sacredness of the sexes, the bond of modesty, the source of purity, the peacefulness of home, the crown of concord...Moreover, as mature, it is both always excellent in men, and to be earnestly desired by women; so its enemy, unchastity, is always detestable, making an obscene sport for its servants, sparing neither bodies nor souls.” —Cyprian of Carthage (3rd C.)

“to control his own body in holiness and honor”

- **Believing men and women live with the reality of disordered \_\_\_\_\_.**

“not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles”

James 1:14-15—<sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

“...though temptation may be external (and not blameworthy) to begin with, it is met by an answering desire from within our own hearts, and it is this which lures and entices us into sin. And that internal desire to sin—concupiscence—has itself the character of sin. So while it is true that it is not sinful to be tempted externally, when temptation involves a struggle against our own desire to sin, it certainly is.” —Matthew P.W. Roberts, *Pride: Identity & the Worship of the Self*

**Key Point:** Living faithfully as Christian men and women in an overly sexualized culture means living lives of \_\_\_\_\_, yielding ourselves to control of the Holy Spirit.

2 Tim. 1:7—for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and **self-control** (*sōphronismos*)

### **Concluding Thought**

Christian virtues in the lives of believing men and women exhibit the work of God in the \_\_\_\_\_ while also anticipating the consummation of all things in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Self-control in Singleness →**

**Self-control in Marriage →**



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**Main Point:** We are called to stand firm on the truth that God has called us live lives of virtue as we serve Him in the world as Christian men and women.

## **Who Are Christian Men & Women?**

### Shared Identity & Commission

- **Believing men and women share a common privilege and position as those who are in Christ.**

Gal. 3:26-28—<sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ...

⇒ The imagery used here pictures the immersion of baptism and being clothed in a new garment.

⇒ Because Christians of all ethnicities, social statuses, and genders share a common identity in Christ, they have the same access to and hope in Him.

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- **Believing men and women share a common mission to proclaim the gospel and make disciples.**

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**Key Point:** Our identity in Christ is our source of life from which we carry out the work of God entrusted to us as Christian men and women.

### Shared Calling to Virtue & Service

Titus 2:1-6—<sup>1</sup>But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup>Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. <sup>3</sup>Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, <sup>4</sup>and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. <sup>6</sup>Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

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- **By their example and instruction, believing women who are older are to teach those who are younger what it means to live as Christian women.**

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**Key Point: Living faithfully as Christian men and women in an overly sexualized culture means living lives of repentance, acknowledging our sin and yielding ourselves to control of the Holy Spirit.**

2 Tim. 1:7—for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control (*sōphronismos*)

### **Concluding Thought**

Christian virtues in the lives of believing men and women exhibit the work of God in the present while also anticipating the consummation of all things in the future.

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