

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 16:13-18

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-18.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are **Bold**. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

**1 Corinthians 16:13–18 (ESV)**

- 13**    **Be watchful,**  
         **stand firm** in the faith,  
         **act like men,** be strong.
- 14**        Let all that you do  
         **be done** in love.
- 15**        Now I urge you, brothers—  
                 you know that the household of Stephanas  
                         were the first converts in Achaia,  
                         and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints—
- 16**    be subject  
                 to such as these,  
                 and to every    fellow worker  
                                 and laborer.
- 17**        I rejoice at the coming of    Stephanas  
   and Fortunatus  
   and Achaicus,  
                 because they have made up for your absence,
- 18**                                   for they refreshed my spirit  
   as well as yours.
- Give recognition**  
                 to such people.

1. Read back through the passage and list all of the commands you see.

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

2. How would you summarize in one sentence what Paul is calling the Corinthian Church to do?

3. Think back through each chapter (or section) in the book and list areas Paul has called the church to be watchful about:

*Chapters 1-4:*

*Chapter 5:*

*Chapter 6:*

*Chapter 7:*

*Chapters 8-10*

*Chapter 11:*

*Chapters 12-14:*

*Chapter 15:*

*Chapter 16:*

4. Paul calls the church to stand firm in the faith. Look at the following passages from the book and describe the potential pitfalls the Corinthians could have fallen in to that would cause them to subvert the gospel:

1:10-17:

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

2:1-5:

6:15-20:

8:9-13:

10:19-22:

11:28-30:

12:1-3:

15:17:

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-18 again.

5. List ways that you and others can remain firm in the faith.

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

6. The phrase “act like men” is a reference to the idea that one should be courageous. The word is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (The Septuagint) in a number of places. Look these up to see the emphasis of this phrase:

Deuteronomy 31:6-7

Joshua 1:6, 9

Joshua 10:25

Psalms 27:14

How would you define what Paul is emphasizing with this phrase, “act like men.”

7. What are ways you are often tempted to lose courage in remaining faithful to Christ or even speaking up publicly for him?
8. List reasons why professing Christians are tempted to be afraid to openly identify themselves with Christ and tend to become cowardly around others?
9. What would assist Christians in becoming more courageous in their Christian commitment?
10. The phrase, “be strong,” in verse 13 could actually be translated as “be strengthened” (passive voice), as if our strength must come from outside of us and we must allow ourselves to be strengthened by a source outside of us. Why would Paul phrase it this way? What is he trying to emphasize?

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

11. Read verse 14. How could 1 Corinthians 13 inform this command?

12. Think of any ways in your service to others in the church that you are tempted to serve in an unloving way. Describe it. What tempts you to be unloving?

13. What would encourage you to be more mindful of doing everything you do in a loving manner?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-18 again.

14. Read verses 15 and 16 together. What is the command in these verses?

15. What does this command mean?

16. What kind of people is Paul calling the Corinthians to submit themselves to? What do the Corinthians know about these people that would encourage them to be submissive to them?

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

17. Paul lists some others beyond the household of Stephanas who the Corinthians should be submissive to. Who are they and why should they be subject to them?
18. When do you struggle to submit yourself to others in the church, especially those in places of biblical authority?
19. What is helpful in learning to be submissive to others?
20. Read through verses 17 and 18. What is the command in these verses?
21. Who is to receive this recognition and why?
22. Being a refreshment to Paul's spirit likely means that they provided not only common encouragement and social enjoyment, but they likely provided Paul spiritual encouragement and joy. What are ways they could have done that for him so that Paul was encouraged with the whole church?

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

23. Who in your life has been like these men – they have been a refreshing encouragement to your soul and how have they done this for you?

24. How could you be this kind of encouragement to someone in our church? What would keep you from initiating it?

25. How could recognition to these kinds of people be made publicly without puffing up their pride or boasting in men rather than the Lord?

26. Which of the commands in these verses stands out to you as the one you should likely think about specifically and look to apply more directly? How could you begin to go about that in the next week?