



IMITATING CHRIST BY LIVING COURAGEOUSLY

1 Corinthians 16:13,14 (NLT)

26 March 2017

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Key concept... Imitating Christ is about being transformed by God to be increasingly more like Christ. If we are to successfully reflect Christ's life, then we will live courageously as Christians.

Key verse... "Be on your guard. Stand firm. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:13,14 NLT

My personal life goal... To live my life as a biblical Christian, called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, resulting in growing Christlikeness.

What is Biblical Courage?

- "Courage" = "to/maw" = saying or doing the right thing for the right reasons regardless of possible consequences.
 - Persevering in the face of adversity
 - Standing up for what is right
 - Facing adversity with dignity and faith

• "Cowardice" ...not saying or doing the right thing for the right reasons to avoid possible consequences

- Caleb -vs- majority, David -vs- Goliath, Nehemiah -vs- enemies, Joshua -vs- stubborn people, Esther -vs- Haman, Daniel -vs- King/lions

In what ways did Jesus live courageously? Jesus courageously...

- Touched and healed "unclean" _____ Matthew 8:1+
- Confronted _____ Matthew 8:28+
- Exposed hypocritical _____ leaders Matthew 23:13-36
- Physically drove worship _____ from the temple Matthew 21:12+
- Taught the _____ despite opposition Mark 11:18
- Entered into Jerusalem aware of a plot to kill him Matthew 21:1+
- Surrendered himself to a _____ to save his disciples John 18:1-8
- He sacrificed his life to give life to others. Matthew 27:32+

How does imitating Christ's courage affect the way we live our lives? It takes Christlike courage to...

- Live biblical _____ Romans 12:1
- Share our _____ Matthew 10:33
- Give _____ Matthew 6:15
- Seek _____ Matthew 5:23
- Endure _____/persecution 1 Peter 2:21
- Engage in selfless _____ Matthew 16:24
- Become a _____ Acts 2:38

How do we as Christians live courageously? By being...

- Committed to _____ "This is my command...be strong and courageous!" Joshua 1:9
- Empowered by the _____ "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." Acts 2:8
- Motivated by _____
- "Be courageous...Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14
- Supported by _____ "O, Lord, give us boldness..." Acts 4:29

Personal Application

- Judas acted cowardly when he betrayed Jesus and ...
- Peter acted cowardly when he denied knowing Jesus and...
- We have acted cowardly when we have betrayed/denied knowing Christ and ...
- Are there any areas in my life where I have been less than Christlike and need to seek him and/or others for forgiveness?

Identify 3 areas in your life where you feel the Lord is calling you to be more courageous in your Christian life.

Prayer for Christlike courage...

Father, more than anything I want my life to reflect the life of your Son, Jesus the Christ, in all I do and say. I confess that sometimes I have failed due to my lack of courage. Amen. Please help me increasingly live with Christlike courage.

(See the bulletin board for a completed set of these study notes.)