

Quit You Like Men!

by Horatius Bonar

The sermon emphasizes the importance of living a courageous, solid, strong, wise, and ripe faith, and being independent in one's faith to avoid being carried away by the opinions of others.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:13

Topics: "Courage in Faith", "Maturity in Christ"

Description

Horatius Bonar emphasizes the call for Christians to embody true manliness in their faith, urging them to be courageous, solid, strong, wise, and mature in their actions and thoughts. He warns against a soft and effeminate Christianity that avoids confrontation with sin and error, advocating for a bold and honest expression of faith that stands firm against societal pressures. Bonar encourages believers to act independently and uprightly, following Christ rather than succumbing to the influence of others, and to remain steadfast in their convictions regardless of external opinions. He highlights the importance of being mature in faith, not allowing worldly distractions to compromise their testimony. Ultimately, Bonar calls for a Christianity that is robust, enduring, and unashamedly truthful.

Transcript

Quit you like men.--Be men! In courage; not cowards, turning our back on the foe, or giving way in danger, or reproach, or evil days. In solidity; not shifting or shadowy, but immovable as the rock. In strength. As the man is, so is his strength. Be strong! In wisdom. Foolishness is with childhood, wisdom with manhood. Speak and act with wisdom, as men. In ripeness. The faculties of men are ripe, both for thinking and working. They speak ripe words, think ripe thoughts, plan and execute ripe things. In understanding be men! In all things;--what you do, and what you refrain from doing, be men. Act the manly part;--let nothing effeminate, luxurious, sickly, childish, puny, little, narrow, be seen about you. Christianity makes men, not babes. Adorn the doctrine of Christ by your manliness. In the Church, in the world, in business, in conversation,--in prosperity and adversity,--quit you like men! Let no man despise thee; and let no man despise the Gospel because of thee.

-Taken from The Christian Treasury, Bible Thoughts on 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, 1864.

For there is some danger of falling into a soft and effeminate Christianity, under the plea of a lofty and ethereal theology. Christianity was born for endurance...It walks with firm step and erect frame; it is kindly, but firm; it is gentle, but honest; it is calm, but not facile; obliging, but not imbecile; decided, but not churlish. It does not fear to speak the stern word of condemnation against error, nor to raise its voice

against surrounding evils, under the pretext that it is not of this world. It does not shrink from giving honest reproof lest it come under the charge of displaying an unchristian spirit. It calls sin 'sin,' on whomsoever it is found, and would rather risk the accusation of being actuated by a bad spirit than not discharge an explicit duty. Let us not misjudge strong words used in honest controversy. Out of the heat a viper may come forth; but we shake it off and feel no harm. The religion of both Old and New Testaments is marked by fervent outspoken testimonies against evil. To speak smooth things in such a case may be sentimentalism, but it is not Christianity. It is a betrayal of the cause of truth and righteousness. If anyone should be frank, manly, honest, cheerful (I do not say blunt or rude, for a Christian must be courteous and polite), it is he who has tasted that the Lord is gracious, and is looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God. I know that charity covereth a multitude of sins; but it does not call evil good, because a good man has done it; it does not excuse inconsistencies, because the inconsistent brother has a high name and a fervent spirit. Crookedness and worldliness are still crookedness and worldliness, though exhibited in one who seems to have reached no common height of attainment.

-Taken from God's Way of Holiness, 1864.

Do not be hangers on of the great, or rich, or influential, either in church or state. Do not be subservient to the leaders of party, or the representatives of public opinion, or the politicians of the day. Quit you like men. Be independent. Act on your own judgment, and follow out your own honest conclusions. Be not carried away with the excitement of controversy, or the enthusiasm of partisanship. Do not be obsequious, trimming, or facing both ways. Be upright before God and man. One is your Master, even Christ; follow Him. To follow others is to bring ourselves into bondage; to make ourselves servants of men. Be calm, be steadfast and unmovable, with your eye upon the great day of sifting, when the Judge shall reckon with you as to your fidelity to Himself. Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free. Be not carried away either with the fear of the many. Be not overawed by the fear of man, which bringeth a snare, or influenced by the love of his approbation, which is no less ensnaring. To your own Master you stand or fall.

-Taken from Light & Truth: Bible Thoughts and Themes, Vol. III, The Acts and Larger Epistles, 1869.

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