

## **Five Imperatives for 21st Century Believers**

### ***Be on your guard...***

**Vigilance against worldly threats to your faith to “watch out for “corrosive influences and the enemy” The lived in an age of prevailing temptation and danger, so do you. Be alert to the pressures, enchantments and habits of your society. Military imagery...**

### ***Stand firm in the faith...***

**It has the figurative sense “to be vigilant” Do not be moved by attacks on your faith (probably shorthand for 2 Thess 2:15). It is a military image that urges them to hold their ground and not retreat before an enemy. There is an enemy for them and us... coldness, complacency, comfort, ease...**

### ***Be men of courage***

**Not “men” in contrast to “women,” but in mature adults in contrast to inexperienced children. He's calling for maturity and courage. The Corinthians have been tolerant when they should have been strict, and intolerant and uncharitable when they should have been “manly enough to make allowances for those who were less robust”**

### ***Be strong***

**Time to enter the gymnasium, time to “get in spiritual shape”**

*become strong, healthy, vigorous, become powerful, be strong, have force...*

### ***Do everything in love***

**The imagery above speaks with military overtones.**

**Similar to 2 Corinthians 10:1-5**

**We fight a battle in love...**

## **So what?**

***There are battles to be fought with every church***

**Wrong ones**

**Right ones**

***It is important to be a part of the army.***

***All soldiers better take heed, including you!***