

Life Group Notes
Sunday 18 June 2017

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Passage: 1 Corinthians 16:10-14

Title: Act Like Men

In these verses two men are mentioned, Timothy and Apollos. So, when we are instructed, in verse 13, to “act like men,” we can learn from the stories of these two godly guys.

Timothy was from a small town (Derbe), and of an introverted or timid nature. Now Paul is sending him with some brothers to Corinth to see how the church has responded to this (quite strong) letter. Hence verses 10-11, he asks the Corinthians to go easy on Timothy! Apparently, this mission (and this epistle) were not very successful – that’s why 2 Corinthians was written!

Some “act like men” lessons from Timothy’s life:

1. Say yes to God.
2. Be brave.
3. Handle conflict.
4. Failure is not the end.
5. Trust the church.

Apollos is a very different kind of man from Timothy. He is from Alexandria – the most intellectual, civilized city in the world. He is upper class, confident, erudite. He is corrected by Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18) and able to learn new things. He goes to Corinth and “greatly helps the church,” but they begin to prefer him to Paul, which is problematic. In v.12 Paul encourages Apollos to visit Corinth again, but Apollos decides not to because his gift has caused problems.

Some “act like men” lessons from Apollos’ life:

1. Keep learning.
2. Use your gift to build the church, which belongs to Jesus.
3. Act with conviction.
4. Know when to step back.

Finally, Lessons from both men. The love of Christ has moved them from their homes to new places. When Jesus comes into people’s lives they start moving. The Bible is full of journeys. We see this ultimately in Jesus. He was so filled with love he couldn’t sit still in heaven. He was eager to come to earth and win the salvation of mankind!

Questions for personal application

1. Are you fearful like Timothy? Could God be at work exposing your fear to deal with it?
2. Do you feel you have messed up like Timothy? How can you overcome this sense of failure and look for the next opportunity?
3. Are you gifted like Apollos? How good are you at deciding when *not* to speak? Are you able to put the wellbeing of the church before your own spiritual prowess?
4. In what areas are you static or stagnated?

How can you be moved by love this week? In what ways is God catching you up into his Great Adventure?