

## Resetting Our Missional Rudder in a Secular Culture

1 Corinthians 16:13–14

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Committing ourselves to being a 1<sup>st</sup> century church in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world is one of the greatest needs of our day. Without this our Great Commission task will remain unfulfilled.

The church of the first century was inheriting a world much like ours. Ryken contends that our 21<sup>st</sup> century culture is very similar to the culture of the early church *in at least four ways*:

- **First, apostolic times were Religious Times.**
- **Second, apostolic times were International Times.**
- **Third, apostolic times were Immoral Times.**
- **Fourth, apostolic times were Dangerous Times.**

The believers at Corinth were faced with their own kind of theological, interpersonal, familial, and moral defection not only in their culture, but in their church.

In 1 Corinthians 16:13–14, Paul is issuing a call to these believers *to flesh out four essential responsibilities*, which will enable them to **protect** the body from further decline, and **confront** their world missionally and efficaciously with the Gospel:

1. **Watch Alertly**—This is a call for **Critical Thought**—“watch.”
2. **Stand Faithfully**—This is a call to **Biblical Conviction**—“stand fast in the faith.”
3. **Lead Courageously**—This is a call for **Personal Courage**—“be brave, be strong.”
4. **Love Visibly**—This is a call for **Visible Compassion**—“Let all that you do be done with (in) love.”