

# The Image and the Symbol

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In Heart of a Warrior we lift up the **image of a warrior** and the **symbol of the sword**. What do we mean by this image and symbol? Are we advocating violence or aggressiveness? Are we glorifying war or aggression? Are we just portraying men as blood thirsty? Not at all!!

The **image of a warrior** is a man who possesses both strength and mercy—a man after God's heart—one who models the character of Christ in all he thinks, says, and does. A man after God's heart, you may recall, is one who is loyal to his Commander Jesus Christ, follows orders, prepares for battle, guards his heart, lays his life on the line, makes a stand, protects his loved ones, and finishes well (see previous posting entitled *A Warrior After God's heart*).

The **symbol of the sword** represents a call to active engagement with our faith, our families, our church, our work, and our community in accordance with God's redemptive purposes. Active engagement is not an option. We are admonished to be and do the following ...

*We are to be 'salt' – a preservative to the world (Mt 5:13).*

*We are to be 'light' to the world (Mt 5:14-16).*

*We are to 'make disciples' (Mt 28:19,20).*

*We are to be action oriented -faith without action is dead (James 2:17, 26).*

*We are to "put our religion into practice" (1 Tim 5:4).*

*We are to be eager to do what is good (Titus 2:11-14; 3:1).*

*We are to show respect to everyone (1 Pet 2:17).*

*We are to live upright and godly lives in this present age (Titus 2:11-14).*

*We are to provide for our families (1 Timothy 5:8).*

*We are to care for the helpless and keep ourselves from being polluted by the world (James 1:27).*

*We are always to be prepared to give a defense ... but with gentleness and respect (1 Pet 3:15).*

This is what Heart of a Warrior stands for—this is what we want to portray.