

Second Corinthians

Instructions to the Church

2 Corinthians 10:3 (NIV) For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.



Waging Spiritual War

I. Warfare's Expectations vs.1-3

A. Expect Misinterpretation v.1

2 Corinthians 10:1 (NIV) By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you-- I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away!

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I. Warfare's Expectations vs.1-3

A. Expect Misinterpretation v.1

2 Corinthians 10:10 (NIV) For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."

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"Meekness" implies *self-control, humble restraint of one's energies and strengths, and an attitude free from a vengeful spirit.*

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"Gentleness" carries this idea further by implying ***"patient steadfastness which is able to submit to injustice, disgrace, and maltreatment without hatred or malice,"*** all the while trusting in God in spite of all taking place [Cleon Rogers, *Linguistic & Exegetical Key to the Greek NT*, 411].

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I. Warfare's Expectations vs.1-3

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“The popular misconception that meekness and gentleness are incompatible with sternness is refuted by the example of Christ Himself, who not only could imperiously drive the grasping money-changers out of the temple with a scourge (Jn. 2:14ff.), but could also denounce false teachers and hypocrites in the severest possible terms (cf. Mt. 23)”

Philip Hughes

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I. Warfare's Expectations vs.1-3

B. Expect Mischaracterization v.2

2 Corinthians 10:2 (NIV) I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.

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I. Warfare's Expectations vs.1-3

B. Expect Mischaracterization v.2

Oh, Paul knows how to scare you quite well with his writing! Your knees have grown weak by his powerful letters. But the old boy is really quite unimpressive. He doesn't even know how to deliver a good speech! How can you really trust someone that hides behind his letters but cannot face you like a man? How can he really be such a super, spiritual person? Why he is just a man of the flesh like anyone else.'

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I. Warfare's Expectations vs.1-3

C. Expect Misdiagnoses v.3

2 Corinthians 10:3 (NIV) For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

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II. Warfare Explained vs.4-5a

A. Our weapons are different v.4a

2 Corinthians 10:4a (NIV) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.

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II. Warfare Explained vs.4-5a

A. Our weapons are different v.4a

2 Corinthians 10:4a (NIV) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.

“a secularized Church is a Church which, having adopted the standards of the world, has ceased to fight and is herself overshadowed by the powers of darkness” .

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II. Warfare Explained vs.4-5a

B. Our weapons are divine v.4b

2 Corinthians 10:4b (NIV) ... On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

The weapons of the world embody:

- ***the lie in place of the truth***
- ***darkness instead of light***
- ***grief rather than joy***
- ***death as a substitute for life***

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II. Warfare Explained vs.4-5a

C. Our weapons are demolishing v.5a

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God,

"The church's failure is not a lack of weapons," and "these weapons of God are not intended to be put on display in a church museum behind a glass case"

Geoff Thomas

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II. Warfare Explained vs.4-5a

2 Corinthians 6:4-7 (NIV) ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

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III. Warfare Engaged vs.5-6

A. Power to demolish strongholds v.5a

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God...

"The church's failure is not a lack of weapons," and "these weapons of God are not intended to be put on display in a church museum behind a glass case"

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III. Warfare Engaged vs.5-6

B. Power to take captive every thought v.5b

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) ... and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Proverbs 11:6 (NIV) The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

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III. Warfare Engaged vs.5-6

B. Power to take captive every thought v.5b

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) ... and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Galatians 5:24 (NIV) Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

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III. Warfare Engaged vs.5-6

B. Power to take captive every thought v.5b

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) ... and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

James 1:14 (NIV) but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

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III. Warfare Engaged vs.5-6

B. Power to take captive every thought v.5b

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) ... and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Philippians 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

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III. Warfare Engaged vs.5-6

B. Power to take captive every thought v.5b

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) ... and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Romans 12:2 (NIV) ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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III. Warfare Engaged vs.5-6

C. Power to punish acts of disobedience v.6

2 Corinthians 10:6 (NIV) And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

“Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.”

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