

“We Do Not War after the Flesh”

Introduction: Paul shifts gears once again and addresses the criticisms being leveled against his ministry by the false teachers. What should we do when personally attacked?

- I. Spiritual _____ (2 Cor. 10:1-6)
 - A. Unfortunately, Paul had to deal with _____ being hurled against his ministry which some in Corinth were believing.
 - B. Whenever self-defense is necessary, it must be done in _____ (Col. 3:12; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 3:2).
 - C. Paul would rather the Corinthians fix their problems before he arrived so he could be more _____ when there in person.
 - D. Some were accusing Paul of working in the power of the _____ (Ro. 7:18; Jn. 15:5).
 - E. As Christians we still live in our flesh, but we are not to _____ on it for spiritual victories.
 - F. “The weapons of the _____ are learning, personal influence, impressive credentials, rhetorical polish, and the like” (Bible Knowledge Comm.).
 - G. “Paul saw himself as a _____ warring against the proud reasonings of man, arguments which oppose the truth” (MacDonald).
 - H. The big battles lie in fighting against _____ ideas in the world (Col. 2:8).
 - I. Satan is fighting in the battlefield of our _____; he wants to build a fortress in your life where he can set camp (Eph. 4:27).
 - J. All teachings which contradict the Scriptures need to be _____.
 - K. We need a Bible answer for _____ false idea—the Word is our way to fight back.
 - L. Every thought we have should be in line with _____.
- II. Spiritual _____ (2 Cor. 10:7-11)
 - A. False apostles claiming to be servants of Christ were _____ their way into the churches Paul planted.
 - B. False teachers _____ ministries in their own power, but Paul went in God’s power and had God’s authority.
 - C. Authority is not to be flaunted, but to _____ those under it; a call to leadership and authority is a call to service and sacrifice.
 - D. Spiritual authority comes from God and His Word, not from a commanding or charismatic _____ (Matt. 7:28-29).
- III. Spiritual _____ (2 Cor. 10:12-18)
 - A. The false teachers were only interested in _____ better than others.
 - B. No ministry should _____ itself to another—every local church is a family, and every family is unique.
 - C. Any ministry can commend itself, but we want God’s _____ on it.

Conclusion: “Faith in the living God, prayer, and obedience to the word of God are the effective weapons of every true soldier of Jesus Christ” (MacDonald).